

Hafa Adai!

E-gaming clubs obtain nearly 900 voters' signatures to repeal law. PAGE 2
Tropical depression to pass through Marianas today. PAGE 2

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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXI, Issue No. 162

www.saipantribune.com

TUESDAY AUGUST 17, 2021

www.facebook.com/saipantribune



'PEACE' sign vandalized

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER



Immediately after hearing that the iconic PEACE sign visible in Garapan had been vandalized, Yogi Singh, Richard Sikkell, and other members of the Saipan Hash Harriers led repair operations to restore the sign.

MELANIE WARD

The "PEACE" sign on the top of the hill in Chinatown was vandalized over the weekend, with parts of the word covered in black plastic bags to bear a resemblance to a vulgar Chamorro term. Fortunately, a group of concerned citizens were immediately able to restore the sign upon learning of the incident.

According to the owners of the property, Juan (Morgan) and Rita Tenorio, they were only made aware of the vandalism late Saturday afternoon after their daughter went up to check on the sign.

Their daughter informed them that parts of the sign were covered in black trash bags and fastened with tape or some kind of adhesive so, from afar, the sign resembled the Chamorro word for "mas-"

See SIGN on Page 4

IPI sued to vacate warehouse

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The company that owns the Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC warehouse in Lower Base is suing IPI for failing to pay rent on the property since March 2020 and is asking the U.S. District Court for the NMI to issue an order to remove them from the property.

James Whang, doing business as South Pacific

Lumber Company, the company that owns the commercial warehouse space on Lot No. 057 E 29, Lower Base, is suing IPI for non-payment of lease.

Due to its failure to make rent, Whang is alleging breach of contract, holdover tenancy, and unjust enrichment and is asking the court to issue an order removing IPI from the property, granting him immediate re-possession of the premises,

See IPI on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 7:12pm, Aug. 16, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population **75%**
Fully Vaccinated: **146**
Days since last community transmission **146**

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	28,911
Fully Vaccinated:	26,953
Moderna	
Initiated:	4,430
Fully Vaccinated:	4,165
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	671

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	9010	8	9,018
Recovered	8,438	59	8,497
Active	370	8	378
Deaths	143	0	143

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	214	5	219
Traced via Travel Screening	177	5	182
Traced via Community Screening	37	0	37
Deaths	2	0	2

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

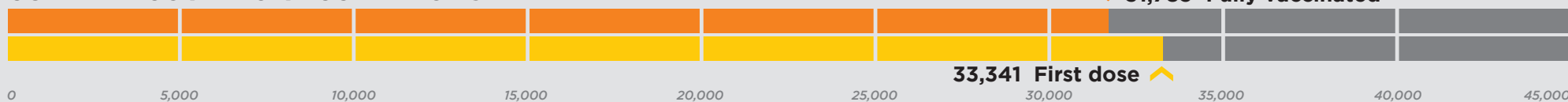
COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



INSIDE



LOCAL

The CNMI Office of Youth Affairs stages a Family Fun Night at the San Vicente Youth Center.

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ASIA

The Taliban swept into Afghanistan's capital Sunday after its government collapsed.

PAGE 12



WORLD

The death toll from a 7.2-magnitude earthquake in Haiti climbed to 1,297 on Sunday.

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



GOT A NEWS TIP?

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

E-gaming clubs obtain nearly 900 voters' signatures to repeal law

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Vegas and Club 88 are claiming to have obtained signatures from almost 900 voters who signed a petition that urges the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation to repeal the newly enacted Saipan Local Law 22-6, which doubled the license fees im-

posed on e-gaming machines.

Saipan Vegas Resort and Club 88 gaming consultant Gus Noble said yesterday that they have presented the petition to SNILD chair Sen. Vinnie Vinson F. Sablan (R-Saipan).

The two clubs' general manager, Bart Jackson, said they are very grateful to the almost 900 voters who signed the petition.

"They call upon Saipan

delegation to repeal this harsh and unfair law that threatens our e-gaming businesses and the jobs of 70 local employees and their ability to support their families," Jackson said.

Jackson called on the SNILD to respond to the will of the voters, to repeal this local tax that, according to him, is harsh and unfair.

He urged the SNILD to

meet with them to find a fair and reasonable compromise.

The two clubs recently filed an ethics complaint against Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (R-Saipan) before the House of Representatives for introducing the bill that led to the enactment of Saipan Local Law 22-6 despite previously acknowledging a conflict of interest because his brother is the

chief executive officer of their competitor, Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC.

MP Holdings, LLC and Mariana Entertainment LLC, owners of Saipan Vegas and Club 88, respectively, submitted their ethics complaint before House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) based on Yumul's participation in the legislative process

that led to enactment of House Local Bill 22-6.

Yumul has yet to comment on the complaint.

Saipan Local Law 22-6 imposes a local license fee on all electronic devices on Saipan and poker amusement machines in the same e-gaming premises on the island, on top of the CNMI taxes that are already being imposed on these machines.

Tropical depression to pass through Marianas today

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

A tropical storm watch remains in effect for the Marianas, with Tropical Depression 16W expected to pass through the region today.

Showers and thunderstorms are expected to increase, with the heaviest rainfall expected today, prompting the Homeland Security and Emergency

Management Agency to issue a flood watch for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

According to the National Weather Service in Guam, a tropical storm watch remains in effect for Guam and Rota with tropical storm conditions, including damaging winds of 39 mph or more, possible through Tuesday as it passes through the Marianas.

Fortunately, Tropical De-

pression 16W remains weak and unorganized and positioning has shifted slightly northwest.

Tropical Depression 16W was last seen moving northwest at 20 mph, and is expected to turn west with a slight decrease in forward speed. 16W is forecast to slightly increase in strength to tropical storm intensity of 40 mph in the next 48 hours.

The center of the system was last located near latitude 13.8 degrees north and longitude 149.8 degrees east, placing the disturbance at about 295 miles east-southeast of Tinian, 285 miles east-southeast of Saipan, 310 miles east of Rota, and about 340 miles east-northeast of Guam.

As Tropical Depression 16W continues to approach the Marianas, showers and

thunderstorms are expected to increase with the heaviest rainfall expected today.

Due to the expected increase in rainfall of up to 2 to 4 inches, a flash flood watch will remain in effect through early Wednesday morning. The flash flood watch will be implemented for Rota, Tinian and Saipan.

A flash flood watch means that conditions may develop that lead to flash flooding. Flash flooding is a very dan-

gerous situation and members of the CNMI community should monitor later forecasts and be prepared to take action should flash flood warnings be issued.

Residents are urged to turn around and don't drown when encountering flooded roads. Most flood deaths occur in vehicles. Be aware of your surroundings and do not drive on flooded roads. Report observed flooding to local emergency.

See **TROPICAL** on Page 4

NMTI is selecting Tinian rep for board

By **JOSHUA SANTOS**
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REPORTER


The Northern Marianas Technical Institute's board of trustees is in the process of selecting a Tinian representative to join the board.

According to NMTI interim chief executive officer Jodina Attao last Wednesday, she and the board's recently-formed nomination subcommittee were to meet last Friday to review four potential candidates. There is already a Rota representative within the board.

Attao explained last Wednesday that having representatives from Tinian and Rota as board members is mandated by law, but having representation from Saipan's neighboring islands is important nonetheless. It was earlier reported that NMTI wants to bring its programs to Tinian and Rota in the future.

"We want to establish our presence [on] Rota and Tinian, and we need representatives to speak for the people of Rota and Tinian to determine their needs. ...Although we're all one and the same, there are totally different needs on the islands," said Attao.

Saipan Tribune was unable to learn if Attao and the subcommittee have already selected a Tinian representative as of press time Monday.

Call  **670.235-NEWS (6397)**
to learn more opportunities.



REFUELING EXERCISE

Soldiers assigned to 1st Battalion, 52nd Aviation Regiment, and their CH-47 Chinooks, left, refuel AH-64 Apaches assigned to the 16th Combat Aviation Brigade during a forward arming and refueling point mission on Tinian in the Northern Mariana Islands during exercise Forager 21 last July 30, 2021. A FARP is designed to refuel an aircraft at a distance closer to their area of operations than their main operating base.

SPC. OLIVIA LAUER

PSS to begin offering COVID-19 testing in schools

By JOSHUA SANTOS

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REPORTER

In line with its goal to safely and fully open all of the

CNMI's public schools, the CNMI Public School System through the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. will offer antigen testing for COVID-19.

Students will be tested using the Abbot BinaxNOW test kit, which reports results after 15 minutes and is a minimally invasive nasal swab compared

to the COVID-19 PCR test. Registering for testing, and screening testing schedules for all schools can be found at covidtesting.chcc.health.

student's respective schools to determine how often they want their students tested for COVID-19.

In an informational video that PSS published on Monday, PSS says the test "feels similar to cleaning your nose," and students will only experience minimal pressure as the swab is inserted between ½ to ¾ inches into the nose.

As also explained in the video, PSS asks parents who wish to have their child tested for COVID-19 to visit

covidtesting.chcc.health; provide parental consent; select the school their child is attending; take note of the confirmation number received; and brief and prepare their child to ensure a calm experience. PSS invites parents to contact their child's schools for updates and to ask questions.

PSS's informational video on antigen COVID-19 testing can be found at https://www.cnmipss.org/sites/default/files/pss_antigen_screening_testing_guide_0.mp4

Bill wants voters to decide on need for constitutional convention

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sen. Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota) has introduced a bill that seeks to ask voters at the 2022 general election if there should be a constitutional convention to propose amendments to the NMI Constitution.

Hocog said his legislation, Senate Bill 22-58, aims to ask voters at the next general election whether or not to convene another constitutional convention, and that it does not advocate nor recommend a position relative to the question.

He said because the submission of the question to the voters is constitutionally mandated, and because the issue was last presented to voters in 2005 when there were 7,394 votes in favor of convening a constitutional convention and 5,156 votes against, it is now

necessary to present the question to voters once again.

Hocog first hinted of introducing a bill about the constitutional convention last July when the full Senate adopted the report of the Senate Committee on Resources, Economic Development and Programs that recommended filing or shelving a legislative initiative that had proposed to amend Article 12 to remove the land alienation restriction in the CNMI.



Hocog

In legislative lingo, "filing" a bill means setting it aside or not acting on it further.

He said he envisions Article 12 to have a natural death. "But if we want to ensure that we continue to protect Article 12, I guess a constitutional convention delegate must come [up with a scheme on] how do to protect Article 12 for the generation to come," Hocog added.

The NMI Constitution became effective on Jan. 9, 1978, and has been amended over 50 times since its adoption.

After the adoption of the NMI Constitution by the first constitutional convention in 1978, two subsequent constitutional conventions convened. On Nov. 3, 1985, voters ratified all 44 amendments proposed by the second constitutional convention that was held in the same year.

All 19 amendments proposed by a third constitutional convention that was held in 1995 failed to win the voters' approval.

An amendment proposed by a constitutional convention becomes effective if approved by a majority of the votes cast and at least two-thirds of the votes cast in each of two senatorial districts.

As provided by Article 18, constitutional amendments may be proposed by constitutional convention, popular initiative, or legislative initiative.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Office of the Secretary

Caller Box 10007, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950
Tel: (670) 664-2587 Fax: (670) 664-2571



ANNOUNCEMENT

The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program has expanded the definition of Front Liners/Essential Workers. The expanded definition now include:

1. Child protective service workers: those who work in the child care welfare system and other critical social services;
2. Workers in the hotel industry;
3. Field workers from utility, water, and waste water companies;
4. Legally operating transportation services;
5. Public works employees, including parts and recreation and private or other autonomous agencies who conduct field work and inspections;
6. Communications and information technology workers;
7. Hazardous materials workers
8. Financial services and lending institutions;
9. Food delivery services;
10. Employees working at the airport and seaport;
11. Restaurant workers and those who work in the food industry.

Front liners/essential workers who may not necessarily meet income guidelines for the family may still qualify. For more information regarding eligibility requirements, please call **CCDF Eligibility Workers, Genevieve Guerrero, at 664-2576** or email at dcca.jguerrero@gmail.com or **Joella Rosario, at 664-2575** or email at ccd.jrosario@gmail.com. You may also want to visit the cnmiclp.gov.mp to download the CCDF Waitlist Application Packet.

/S/
Maribel D. Loste
CCDF Director

/S/
Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero
DCCA Secretary



THE JUDICIARY

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Guma' Hustisia / Iimwal Aweewe / House of Justice
P.O. Box 502179 • Saipan, MP 96950
<https://nmijudiciary.com>

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that the NMI Judiciary will be conducting a Public Information Meeting on its applications for federal grants from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development-Community Facilities Grant Program.

Amount Requested	Purpose
\$200,000.00	Repair or replacement of elevator to restore accessibility to Superior Court courtrooms on 2nd floor
\$60,000.00	Installation of portable standby generator for Information Systems Unit hub

The public information meeting will be held at **3:00 pm on Monday, August 30, 2021** at the Security and Screening Zone of the Guma' Hustisia in Susupe, Saipan.

For more information, you may contact John T. Villagomez, Budget and Finance Director, at 236-9793 or john.villagomez@nmijudiciary.com.

Igisomar confirmed as DPL secretary

» At one confirmation hearing, Igisomar says he will issue written position about landownership of certain Catholic churches in the CNMI

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

All nine senators confirmed Thursday last week the appointment of former Saipan senator Sixto K. Igisomar as secretary of the Department of Public Lands.

In a session held at the Tinian courthouse, senators adopted the Standing Committee Report 22-31 dated July 12, 2021, prepared by the Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations, which stated that, based on the overall assessment of Igisomar's credentials, experiences, testimonies, goals for

the agency, and other relevant issues considered, they are convinced that the appointee has the qualifications and leadership skills necessary to serve as the DPL secretary.

The EAGI Committee held confirmation hearings on Rota last June 28, on Tinian last July 6, and on Saipan last July 12.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres appointed Igisomar last May 9 to serve as the DPL secretary.

According to the committee's report, many testified in support of Igisomar's appointment. The committee

also received written testimonies in opposition submitted by Raymond B. Quitugua, and MATUA Council for Chamorro Advancement president Liana M.S. Hofschneider.

Among the many issues the committee asked Igisomar was the landownership of certain Catholic churches in the Commonwealth.

The issue was raised during the Saipan hearing when an individual opposed Igisomar's confirmation because he has not responded to the church land matter.



Igisomar

Torres says he will take 'appropriate action' once served with JGO subpoena

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said Friday that he will wait to be served first with the subpoena of the House of Representatives' Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee before he can discuss what his next steps would be.

Asked during a radio press briefing about the JGO subpoena and if he will speak at the JGO hearing, which is investigating Torres' travels and expenses, Torres said he was informed that the JGO had voted to subpoena him to show up at the hearing.

"I'll wait for that subpoena to be served," the governor said. He did not elaborate as to what action he will take once served with the subpoena.

The JGO, chaired by Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan), approved last Thursday subpoenas that will require Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Department of Public Safety Commissioner Robert A. Guerrero, and several others to testify before the JGO in its probe on Torres' expenditures of public funds and travels.

Babauta said the date of the witnesses' testimony would be subject to the availability of the House chamber and the JGO members' schedules.



Gov. Ralph DLG Torres speaks before naming Senate floor leader Vinnie Vinson Flores Sablan (R-Saipan) as his running mate for the 2022 gubernatorial election. Joining Torres on the stage at his residence in As Teo Sunday afternoon are his family and GOP board president James Ada.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

As of last night, Babauta said they have yet to finalize the subpoenas.

Meanwhile, Torres described as "another misleading information" Rep. Edwin Propst's (D-Saipan) statement on social media that the governor is spending the CNMI's American Rescue Plan Act funds by raising the salaries of Cabinet members.

"There is no Cabinet members' [salary] that's been raised through ARPA funds. So I don't think it's appropriate to be making comments when it's inaccurate," Torres said.

Showing a copy of the administration's "Business Unit Position Costing Summary," Propst said Torres is lying.

SIGN

From Page 1

turbation."

The couple believe the vandalism could have been done by children or teenagers in the village because they do not remember seeing anyone come up to the sign prior to the vandalism so it is believed the perpetrators climbed up from below the sign.

According to Rita Tenorio, she can't think why anyone would want to vandalize a sign that they paid for, out of their own pockets, for the community to enjoy.

"I don't know why anyone would do that. That sign is for the community to enjoy. We allow everyone to come up and enjoy as long as they ask permission," she said.

The sign, which was constructed over 10 years ago, was initially Rita Tenorio's entry for a "Christmas light" competition. Although she did

not win the competition, because of the joy it brought to the community, she said she decided to keep the sign up all year round. Since then, the sign has become a popular site for tourists and locals alike.

Rita Tenorio's husband, Juan Tenorio, said he just hopes that this is the first and last time the sign is vandalized and that whoever did it realizes that what they did was wrong and that they don't encourage others to do the same thing or worse.

"It looks like a kid's work. It's just sad but I just hope whoever did this, they find peace within themselves," Juan Tenorio said.

Fortunately, members of the Saipan Hash Harriers community acted on the vandalism and immediately restored the sign back to its former state and the couple is grateful that they did.

"This morning, my wife saw a pickup truck with some guys with a ladder. When I went up there, I found

two guys and a lady and they were taking down the plastic that was put up. It was very touching for me. We thank them so much for doing that because we believe that sign touches a lot of people," he said.

Yogi Singh, who led the repair and cleanup, said that after learning about the vandalism, he recruited other members of the Saipan Hash Harriers community to help him fix the sign since the spot has become one of the group's favorite spots after a long Hash Run. Other members of the cleanup crew were Richard Sikkell and Melanie Ward.

"We are a bunch of hashers so once in a while we'll end up in that property. The owners are very nice and they let us use their property. We felt like, as a group that benefits from them and their property, we had to do something about it so we went up at around 11am just to see what needed to be done and it was just a bunch of garbage bags and cardboard so we took it down," he said.

Igisomar requested that he be allowed to respond in writing to avoid any gaps.

"On that issue if you're talking about whether the Archdiocese of Chalan Kanoa owns properties that the churches are currently on, if I may request, I'd like to give you a written response to this because I'd like to put my mind around it," he had said.

He said that, based on his current discussion with DPL directors on the properties, as he's asked them already to look into the matter, there are questions whether the properties were purchased by the Archdiocese of Guam.

With respect to timelines, Igisomar said, there are questions whether they were purchased pre-Constitution/pre-Covenant, and whether those properties were actually changed into private properties once they were transmitted to the church, "and whether those properties now are all private properties of all the churches, with the exception of San Vicente Church, as a land exchange between Rota or Tinian to that land where San Vicente Church is now," he said.

Igisomar said he has received some answers from the directors and that he'd like to put it in writing so that he can have a correct presentation and not create any doubts or gaps in his presentation to the committee.

The committee, which is chaired by Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian), encouraged Igisomar to look into this matter as it is a very sensitive and important issue for the community.

The committee stated that it would be unfair for the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa for the property to be deeded

to the Archdiocese of Guam.

Igisomar said that public lands domain is in public lands. "If that property has been changed into private land, we will have no direct access to investigating it. However, as I stated, I will formalize a written response to this committee on that matter," he said.

The committee asked Igisomar to also look into the property on Rota as it is unclear who owns the land where the church is located.

Igisomar noted that the same question was brought to him when he was a senator and that his response was that he did not have all the resources to respond to that question accordingly. But now that he is at DPL, Igisomar said he will respond to this question within his capacity as DPL secretary, if confirmed.

The committee believes that, although the concern about the churches' ownership is legitimate, it believes that Igisomar will be able to address this matter within his capacity as DPL chief.

At a Senate session last July, Sen. Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) underscored the need for the CNMI government to work perhaps with the Office of the Attorney General to go back in time and see whether the government still has rights to the lands where Catholic churches in the CNMI are erected.

DeLeon Guerrero said lawmakers should be concerned because if these public lands are being held as liens to settle a huge case right now against the Catholic Church in Guam, it will affect the people of the CNMI.

IPI

From Page 1

and a jury trial.

The plaintiff is also seeking injunctive relief to preserve assets currently held in the warehouses to ensure payment of the judgment entered in this case.

Whang, through attorney Colin Thompson, also wants IPI to pay a total of \$391,703.13. According to the breakdown, IPI owes \$276,080 for rent, \$110,432 for late fees, and \$5,191.13 for utilities.

Lastly, the lawsuit is asking for an order for attorney's fees and costs and litigation fees and costs pursuant to the lease and all related fees and costs as otherwise may be provided by contract or by law.

According to court documents, IPI leased the premises from Whang back in May 8, 2015. The initial term of the lease was for a one-year period starting on May 11, 2015, and ending on May 11, 2016, with a right to extend the term of the lease for up to five years.

IPI agreed to pay the plaintiff rent on or before the fifth day of each month during the term of the lease.

IPI also agreed to pay the plaintiff a 5% penalty assessed on the sixth day of each month for all cumulative amounts past due.

On April 26, 2016, IPI and Whang signed an amendment to the lease extending the term of the lease to May 10, 2021, increasing the leased space to include the entire premises, and reducing the rental price per square foot, resulting in the monthly rental amount of \$16,240.

According to the complaint, IPI has not paid any rent to plaintiff pursuant to the lease since March 2020, up until July of 2021.

Last July, plaintiff served defendant with invoices for the amounts outstanding under the lease for past due rental, late fees, and utility payments and notices to vacate the premises but to date, IPI has not responded to them.

"On July 28, 2021, plaintiff served defendant with a '3-Day Notice to Pay Rent or Quit,' notifying IPI of its continued failure to pay rent, outstanding amount due under the Lease, defendant's failure to vacate the premises, and gave defendant until Aug. 2, 2021, to vacate the premises. Defendant has not responded to these notices," Thompson said.

TROPICAL

From Page 2

agency services or law enforcement and request they pass this information to the national weather service when you can do so safely.

In addition to the flash flood watch, a small craft advisory also remains in the

effect for the CNMI through tonight.

The CNMI can expect east winds of up to 25 knots with gusts up to 35 knots. Sea levels are also expected to rise up to 11 feet.

Mariners are encouraged not to operate their vessels in these hazardous conditions as winds could possibly capsize or damage vessels and reduce visibility while out at sea.

MHS graduate is promoted as US Navy logistics specialist senior chief in Italy

» 2 other brothers are also with Navy

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

A Marianas High School graduate was recently promoted as U.S. Navy logistics specialist senior chief in Naples, Italy, where he is currently stationed at the Forward Deployed Repair Maintenance Center.

Arthurlevy Bignayan Agulto, who graduated from Marianas High School in 2002, was assigned to Naval Supply Fleet Logistics Center in Sigonella, Italy as the senior enlisted leader where, according to him, he advises a diverse workforce of all service members and civilian employees on personnel policies, programs, ideas, and opportunities pertinent to their wellbeing, allowing them to focus on performing their mission and enhancing their careers through applied experience in coordinating logistics operations.

Agulto's military awards include two Navy Commendation medals, eight Navy and Marine Corps Achievement medals, and various Joint Service medals and awards.

In August 2002, Agulto reported to Recruit Training Command in Great Lakes, Illinois and completed Airman Apprentice Training in Pensacola, Florida that same year.

His duty assignment includes at the Sea Control Squadron 33, where he was designated as a storekeeper and rated Petty Officer Third Class. Before leaving the squadron, Agulto was the recipient of the Command Advancement Program to Petty Officer Second Class.

He served as financial specialist at the Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron. He was the Leading Petty Officer at Commander Fleet Air Forward Aviation Support Division at Andersen Air Force Base in Guam.

Agulto served aboard USS *Gary* as the leading petty officer, completing two successful deployments, RIMPAC 2014 and its decommissioning.

He was also aboard the USS *Makin Island* as the leading chief petty officer for Damage Control and Hazardous Materials Division.

Agulto and his wife, Sarah Deleon Agulto, have a six-year-old daughter, Ayrah Snow Deleon Agulto.

At MHS, Agulto was the graduating class president, ran track, and member of the National Honor Society and other organizations.

Agulto is the son of CNMI Department of Labor executive secretary Maria Lee B. Bignayan. He earned his bachelor's degree in Marketing from the University of Maryland Global Campus and is a current candidate for his Master's in Business.

According to Bignayan, her son likes outdoor activities, enjoys cycling, and loves to spend time with his family and experience other cultures.

Bignayan is proud mother of two other U.S. Navy sons—Logistics Specialist 1 Romeo Bignayan Agulto, who is assigned in Virginia, and Logistics Specialist 1 Clemen Krisnan Bignayan Agulto, who is assigned in Guam.



Agulto



Families line up to register with CNMI Office of Youth Affairs staff before enjoying OYA's Family Fun Night at the San Vicente Youth Center last Friday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Special assistant for Youth Affairs Ali Ogo, leftmost, and OYA staff share a photo during its Family Fun Night at the San Vicente Youth Center last Friday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

About 50-60 families take part in Family Fun Night

By **JOSHUA SANTOS**
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REPORTER

Despite the heavy rain last Friday that cut the event short, the CNMI Office of Youth Affairs successfully staged a Family Fun Night at the San Vicente Youth Center that drew an estimated 50 to 60 families.

The event featured treats for sale, live entertainment, game prizes throughout the evening, and special prizes for children who completed an "event passport."

According to special assistant for Youth Affairs Ali Ogo, he said the event was "bumping and jumping for

a little bit" until OYA made the call to cut short the event due to heavy rain.

"We had about nine agencies come out and four vendors, it was bumping and jumping for a little bit. The rain came in and we made the call to [cut it short] it for the safety of the kids. ...We were hitting about 50 to 60 families [before the rain hit]," said Ogo.

He said he and OYA did not want to see children running out in the rain to claim their event prizes. They ended up handing out prizes to all of the event's attendees.

Ogo said the office will "have a repeat" of a Family Fun Night at the San Vicente Youth Center, a "Movie

Night" in September, and a Family Fun Night in Koblerville. OYA will also be offering its after-school tutoring program beginning Aug. 18, but how OYA will run its program will depend on how the CNMI Public School System will conduct classes this school year.

Ogo said his goal is to hold Family Fun Nights at every community center on Saipan, saying it is important that OYA's events are spread out throughout Saipan. "I [want] to cater to the community in general. We understand that San Vicente is a distant drive from the north side so we do want to bounce around," he said.

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Phone: 783-3282

Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter)
of the Petition) FCD CN CIVIL
for the Change) ACTION NO.
of Name of:) 21-0209
Nava Rosemarie)
Khorram) **NOTICE OF**
Petitioner) **HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on October 4th, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 217A, before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 15th day of June, 2021.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

EDWIN M. MENDOZA) FCD-DI
Petitioner) CIVIL ACTION
) NO. 21-0261
Vs.)
CARLOTA P. MARZAN) SUMMONS FOR
Respondent) PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the Court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 10001 PMB 433, Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgment by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 23rd day of June, 2021.

/s/ Clerk of Court

CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB21-ZB-093
SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 03, 2021 TIME: 09:00 A.M. (RE-BID)
"36 MONTHS LEASE OF ONE MULTIFUNCTION OFFICE PRINTER FOR THE COMMONWEALTH ZONING BOARD OFFICE"
COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.
****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****
THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-425 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.
THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.
/S/ TATIANA BABAUTA
CHAIRWOMAN, CNMI ZONING BOARD
/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION (RFQ)
RFQ21-CHCC/PH/CGC-002
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 10th, 2021 TIME: 4.30PM (CHST)
"PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR INDEFINITE DELIVERY INDEFINITE QUANTITY-CHCC POPULATION HEALTH COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING"
INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.
THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.
/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK • Saipan, MP 96950-1220
Telephone: (670) 664-4282 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the **Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors' Personnel Committee** hereby informs the general public that the Committee will continue the Administrative Hearings on **Friday, August 20, 2021, 10:30 a.m.** at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building.

The Agenda is as follows:

- Preliminary Matters
 - Roll Call
 - Adoption of Agenda
- Public Comments
- Administrative Review Hearing – Friday, August 20, 2021
Appeal of Corrective Action No. 20-0001-CA, T.A.A., Petitioner
- Discussion of B.P.A. 20-0002-CA Order and Recommendation
- Discussion and Review of 20-0001-CA Appeal, A.N., Petitioner
- Executive Session
- Adjournment

Rep. Babauta's office hosts NMC, NMTI info session

The Office of Sheila J. Babauta organized last Thursday, Aug. 12, 2021, an information session at the Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School in San Roque focusing on higher education opportunities available in the CNMI.

Both the Northern Marianas College and Northern Marianas Technical Institute provided presentations on their respective application processes, available programs, financial aid opportunities, and payment plan options.

"With no seats left in the cafeteria we were happy to see a wide range of participants that included high school students, recent high school graduates, adults, and families. The event was a huge success," said Trini Iguel, who is an intern with Babauta's office and is a recent NMC graduate. Iguel, who helped organize the information session, is currently a student of the University of Alaska, studying Social Work and Criminal Justice.

"We see that requirements are constantly changing in the workplace. In the past, having a high school diploma was sufficient but now, employers are prioritizing those who have a bachelor's degree or a certification in their trade," said Iguel. "Hosting this event in the community was our way of giving back and informing constituents about the very affordable higher education outlets that



Northern Marianas College representatives give a presentation on their application processes, available programs, financial aid opportunities, and payment plan options. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Northern Marianas Technical Institute representatives give a presentation on their application processes, available programs, financial aid opportunities, and payment plan options. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

we have on the island."

Babauta said the event aimed to provide access to information and encourage community members to take the next steps to achieving their goals in higher education. "We understand transportation is an issue for many and we try to bridge the gaps by hosting events in the village," she said.

NMC provided presentations from their University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, the Office of Ad-

missions, and the Financial Aid office, while NMTI provided a presentation about their overall programs and services. After the event, NMC and NMTI handed out applications and answered questions from the attendees.

For participants who later pursue education at either institutions, NMC agreed to waive application and placement fees for attendees; and NMTI offered to waive late registration fees.

During the event, Iguel sur-

veyed attendees on the types of free classes or programs they would like offered in the villages.

"This is the first step to assisting our community members build on their skills and grow as individuals," said Babauta. Her office plans to offer a series of free classes to help community members build skills such as resume building, basic computer skills, writing skills, and other classes requested by the community.

The Office of Sheila J. Babauta would like to thank the teams from NMC and NMTI for their partnership in hosting a successful event in the village of San Roque, and a special mention to Jerry Pangelinan (NMTI) and Maria Aguon (NMC).

For more information, contact Babauta's office via email at rep.sbabauta@gmail.com or phone at 670.287.8151. (PR)

Three overdue mariners rescued off Kiribati

HONOLULU—The U.S. Coast Guard, Navy, and the merchant vessel *Linnix* rescued three overdue mariners in the vicinity of Christmas Island, Kiribati last Friday.

The crew of the merchant vessel *Linnix* rescued the mariners, last seen Aug. 6, and transported them back to Christmas Island.

"Through coordination with our Navy partners, we were able to save members of our Pacific community and bring them home to their families," said Lt. j.g. Sarah Chen, a Joint Rescue Command Center Honolulu command duty officer. "It's through these partnerships that we are able to increase the success of search and rescue missions."

At 3:45pm, Sunday, JRCC watchstanders received notification of an overdue 18-foot aluminum skiff with three men onboard en route to fishing grounds off Christmas Island, Kiribati.

Upon notification, JRCC watchstanders provided a drift

pattern to the search and rescue coordinator in Kiribati and deployed an Air Station Barbers Point HC-130 Hercules aircrew. At 8:46am, Thursday, a Navy P-8 Poseidon aircrew located the missing mariners 307 miles west of their original departure location.

"We are thankful we were able to assist in this rescue effort and grateful these mariners were returned safely," said Capt. John Voorhees, the commander of Patrol Reconnaissance Wing 10. "The relationships we build working closely with the Coast Guard and other partners paid great dividends today."

The P-8 aircrew dropped a search and rescue kit containing food and water and the C-130 aircrew dropped a radio, locator beacon, and additional supplies. JRCC watchstanders relayed their location and the crew of the merchant vessel *Linnix* arrived on scene this afternoon and safely transported the mariners back to Christmas Island. (USCG)

CUC ADVISORIES

Power interruption on Rota this Thursday

There will be a scheduled power service interruption on Rota this Thursday, Aug. 19, 2021, from 8:am to 12pm. The affected area will be partial of Sinapalo I (residence of Richard Manglona, Danny Kent King and Pedro Dela Cruz).

The purpose of the power interruption is to replace deteriorated accessories and hardware on several power poles to upgrade the power system on Feeder 2 for more reliable services.

For more information, contact the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s Rota Office at 532-9411/4 or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (PR)

Power interruption on Saipan this Thursday

There will be a scheduled power service interruption on Saipan this Thursday, Aug. 19, 2021, affecting Beach Road, Garapan.

■ Outage Time: 9am – 12pm

■ Areas Affected: Beach Road, Garapan (Garapan Fire Station, Sura Restaurant, Chunji Restaurant, Jonny's Bar & Grill, Godfather's Bar, Loco Taco, Tony Seafood Restaurant, Sang Jee Rent a Car, & the former Spicy Thai Restaurant

■ Distribution Circuit: Feeder 2

■ Water Well Affected: KV-20

■ Wastewater Facility Affected: None

■ Purpose: To perform vegetation clearance on the primary lines at American Memorial Park.

For more information, contact the CUC Hotline at 236-4333 or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (PR)

Water interruption on Tinian this Saturday

There will be a scheduled water service interruption on Tinian this Saturday, Aug. 21, 2021, from 7am to 8pm, for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in the following areas: San Jose Village, Carolinas agricultural area, portions of Carolinas Heights, and Marpo Valley.

The purpose of the scheduled water service interruption is for CUC's contractor, Tropex Garden Co. Ltd., to complete the repair and replacement of the 10-inch waterline located at Carolinas Heights, above JWS Apartments, as part of the ongoing Tinian Maui II Well Rehabilitation project.

For more information, contact the CUC Tinian Office at 433-9265 or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (PR)

Friends of the Mariana Trench celebrate public participation in management plan

The Friends of the Mariana Trench thank the community for engaging in the recent public commenting process for the draft management plan for the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument.

We also congratulate the CNMI government on its robust response to the draft management plan. The Friends were impressed and heartened by the thoughtful comments written by our elected officials and government agencies. Finally, we thank the local and national nongovernment organizations, scientists, and former federal government employees who took the time to participate.

"I can't emphasize enough how important it is for our community to participate and comment on federal documents when given the opportunity," said Rep. Sheila Babauta, chairperson of Friends of the Mariana Trench and chairperson of the CNMI Legislature's Natural Resources Committee. "I'm so grateful for all the efforts by the Friends of the Mariana Trench to gather, educate, and assist



community members during the comment period of the draft management plan."

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration first released the draft management plan for the Monument in February this year. The Friends ensured professional reviews of the draft by scientific experts and community development consultants. The collective input was condensed into a key takeaways reference sheet geared toward the public and offered information about the plan's content, strengths, and weaknesses.

"We often say we want a seat at the table," Babauta said about federal plans for the Northern Marianas. "This is one way

to take advantage of that and voice your concerns, state your support, or ask questions."

The Friends leveraged their website and social media to spread awareness of the Monument draft management plan and commenting process; hosted watch parties on Saipan and Tinian to allow community members from all islands to participate in federal virtual meeting sessions; performed outreach at the Ocean Fairs on Saipan and Rota and during Project Liffang, an entrepreneurial fair hosted by the United Carolinians Association in collaboration with the Carolinian Affairs Office and the CNMI Women's Association; and held 12 public comment workshop sessions.

The Friends also received capacity support from the members of the National Ocean Protection Coalition and the Blue Nature Alliance in support of engaging the community during the comment process.

"Aside from our national partners, we would like to thank the Marianas Alliance of Nongovernmental Organizations and their staff for making their resource room available for our daily workshops," said Friends executive director Laurie Peterka. "Last but definitely not least, a big shoutout to all of FOMT staff for their hard work in organizing the watch parties, providing outreach booths at events, and presenting at the workshops too!" (PR)

MCS Resumes Classes

Mount Carmel School welcomed back her students to campus for the 2021-2022 school year last Thursday, Aug. 12, 2021. During the first two days of classes, MCS students participated in energizers, ice-breakers, and reinstated traditions like outdoor lunch and Friday Mass. The first face-to-face Mass of the school year was celebrated by Bishop Ryan P. Jimenez from the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa.



MCS students participated in energizers and activities during the first week of school. In the photo, MCS ninth-grader Laizza Mallari plays the Ten-Thousand Dollar Pyramid with her classmates.



While the CNMI is at Level Green, outdoor lunch for grades 7th to 12th was one of the reinstated privileges Mount Carmel School brought back for the 2021-2022 school year.

Mount Carmel School welcomed her students back on campus this past week for the start of the 2021-2022 school year.



After the Opening Mass on Friday, Bishop Ryan P. Jimenez blessed the new location of the Campus Chapel. The chapel is open to all MCS students, parents, and community members. Class rosaries will also be practiced in the chapel this school year.



All of Mount Carmel School's faculty and staff participated in the Commissioning Ceremony during the Opening Mass celebration on Friday, Aug. 13, 2021. The ceremony is meant to bless the faculty and staff of MCS as they agree to teach the religion, faith, and values of the Catholic church.



Mount Carmel School's fourth graders were excited to advance to the middle school building during the first day of classes last Thursday.



Mount Carmel School thanks Bishop Ryan P. Jimenez for celebrating the Opening Mass for the 2021-2022 school year. MCS will celebrate Mass or rosary for all grade levels every other Friday this school year.



Mount Carmel School's seniors participated in fun physical energizers during the first day of classes this past week.



Mount Carmel School's fifth graders drew about what they did this past summer during the first day of classes on Thursday, August 12, 2021.



Mount Carmel School welcomed her community members on campus on Thursday, Aug. 12, 2021.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXI, Issue No. 162Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
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EDITORIAL

What do the Saudis have to hide regarding the 9/11 attacks?

Nearly 20 years after the deadliest foreign assault on U.S. soil, the American people still don't have all the answers about whether the Saudi government assisted the mainly Saudi terrorists who planned and carried out the 9/11 attacks. That's because the FBI continues to classify key details of the 9/11 investigation, citing national security concerns. Democratic senators from the states most heavily affected by the World Trade Center attacks are demanding declassification of that information, as are family members of the nearly 3,000 victims.

They're right. There's no reason to continue protecting the Saudi government from whatever embarrassment it might suffer from any revelations.

Family members of the victims are among 1,600 signatories of a letter telling President Joe Biden not to attend any commemoration ceremonies marking the 20th anniversary unless he first declassifies the remaining material. Biden has committed to a limited review but has stopped short of full declassification.

The phrase "national security" can encompass a wide range of justifications and excuses. If access to cheap and plentiful oil might be cut off by Saudi Arabia in retaliation for the declassification, the resulting harm to the U.S. economy could arguably be deemed a national security concern. The Saudis could halt purchases of U.S. military weaponry or withdraw its multibillion-dollar holdings in U.S. stocks. Any number of scenarios could fall under the national security umbrella.

But the central question in all such retaliatory outcomes remains unanswered: What do the Saudis have to hide?

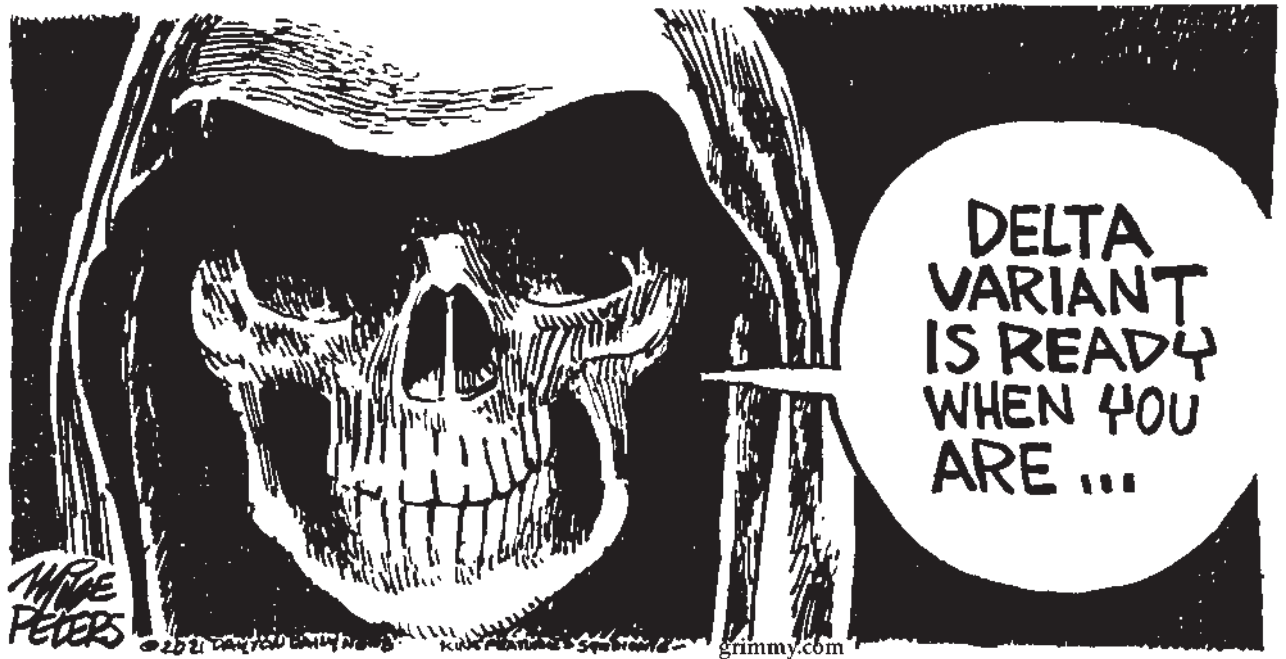
For many decades, American citizens have been led to believe that the Saudi monarchy is a staunch U.S. ally that opposes all forms of terrorism and will do whatever it takes to ensure the stability of Western economies.

But it became clear after the 9/11 attacks that the kingdom, in fact, harbored and protected some of the most radical clerics preaching the same interpretations of the Quran as the leaders of al-Qaida, the Taliban and the Islamic State. Saudi funding helped expand religious schools around Pakistan where young men were indoctrinated in radical religious thought.

The royal family has zero tolerance for dissent. Women were jailed for daring to challenge oppressive rules that prevented them from driving or traveling. Washington Post opinion writer Jamal Khashoggi, a Saudi citizen, criticized Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman in print. For that, the prince dispatched a team of agents to corral Khashoggi inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, where they killed him and dismembered the body. The State Department's 2020 human rights report on the kingdom is rife with stories of kidnappings, torture and forced disappearances.

That's how Saudi leaders handle embarrassment. So imagine the kinds of retaliation they are threatening behind the scenes to ensure ongoing secrecy about the kingdom's involvement or complicity in the 9/11 attacks. Which again raises the unanswered central question: What, exactly, are the Saudis trying to hide?

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The world told Afghan women it had their backs. It doesn't

By **RUTH POLLARD**
BLOOMBERG OPINION

Do senior officials from the U.S., China and Russia really plan to keep talking to the Taliban as if its fighters are not murdering civilians—including female activists—across Afghanistan, attacking schoolgirls and telling women they cannot leave the house without a man to accompany them?

Plenty of governments seem happy to break bread with Taliban negotiators since the U.S. under Donald Trump's administration made a deal with them and President Joe Biden decided to honor it. In December 2001, the U.S. under George W. Bush pledged funds to support the women and children of Afghanistan. His wife Laura said, "The fight against terrorism is also the fight for the rights and dignity of women." Any such promises are now hollow, exposed as disposable symbolism.

Representatives of the hard-line Islamist group met with China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi last month and have recently been in Moscow, Tehran and Doha. And while they continue to travel freely (removed, temporarily, from a United Nations blacklist while peace talks are under way) their fighters have made rapid advances across the country, leaving a frightening toll of death and mayhem as U.S. and NATO troops prepare for a full withdrawal by Aug. 31.

The Afghan government and civil society called for action over the Taliban's attacks on civilians, asking those nations involved in talks with the militants to insist on an immediate ceasefire and a genuine resumption of the peace process. The U.N. Security Council did convene a special meeting on the crisis on July 6 and 7. But nothing emerged to solve the problem.

In the areas collapsing under the Taliban, women make up the most vulnerable group. Civilian deaths are up by nearly 50% and more women and children were killed and wounded in Afghanistan in the first half of 2021 than in the first six months of any year since records began in 2009, the UN said last month.

There is so much at stake. A generation of Afghan women who have taken their place in society are now watching that space shrink before their eyes. They entered public life as lawmakers, local governors, doctors, lawyer, teachers and public administrators, working for two decades to help create a civil society and generate opportunities for those who come after them.

Now the Taliban are going door-to-door in some areas, compiling lists of women and girls aged between 12 and 45 years for their fighters to forcibly marry. Women are again being told they cannot leave the house without a male escort, they cannot work, study or dress as they please. Schools and colleges are being shut

and businesses destroyed. The exodus of those who can afford to flee the country is growing by the day.

Farkhunda Zahra Naderi, a former lawmaker and senior U.N. adviser to President Ashraf Ghani and now member of the Afghanistan's High Council for National Reconciliation, has seen her country open up over the last two decades to become part of the global community, brought together via real-world and online connections, powered through education, business and political ties.

"My greatest fear is now they are marginalizing women who have been working in these leadership positions, who have been a strong voice against the most powerful abusers but also working with them to change the situation on the ground." If they eliminate these leaders, she says, who will be left to speak up for women and defend the gains made over the last 20 years.

Along with women's rights, democracy is perishing. It is clear the Taliban cannot win Afghanistan at the ballot box. An Asia Society survey of Afghans in 2019—that last time such a poll was published—found the proportion of the population who say they have no sympathy with the Taliban grew to 85.1% from 82.4% in 2018, while those who have a lot or some sympathy for the radical Islamists was 13.4%, similar to 2018. Absent any political capital, they are now trying take the country by force.

The problem is, the longer it takes for the international community to act, the further the Taliban will push into civilian areas, using people's homes as staging posts for attacks and forcing children to act as human shields to protect them from air strikes as they move around the hinterland, warns Ahmad Shuja Jamal, director of international affairs and regional cooperation at the Afghan National Security Council. The U.N. Security Council meeting should have been the time when condemnations gave way to action in the face of these atrocities, Jamal said.

Beyond surveys, there are public outpourings that indicate Afghans do not want the Taliban to take them back to the dark ages. In a rallying cry of defiance and at great personal risk, men, women and children have been marching in the streets and climbing onto their roof tops to shout "Allahu Akbar" or "God is Great."

From the capital, Kabul, to the regional cities of Herat and Khost to the provinces of Nangarhar and Bamiyan, Afghans are reclaiming this phrase—so often abused by terrorist groups like the Taliban—and using it in defense of their army as it fights to defend the country they've worked so hard to rebuild. Unless the international community acts, these courageous actions will be pointless and the U.S. and its allies will have made martyrs of the very women and children they had promised to protect.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Don't shy away from honest, open discourse

I wrote my first op-ed as a senior in high school. It was about John Steinbeck's book "East of Eden." "Timshel," a central word in the book, is a Hebrew word that translates to "thou mayest." I referred to it as part of a message to my fellow soon-to-be graduates. The piece wasn't a stroke of genius and I'd surely make some edits to it today.

Still, I'm glad I wrote it, even if it made only one other person think of a novel idea, explore a different perspective or pick up a new book. If any of those things happened, I achieved something because our popular discourse was enriched and the diversity of thought was expanded.

I'm glad I shared my two cents even though this piece or one of the 184 pieces I've written since then will inevitably be used against me—maybe in pursuit of a job, maybe in a run for office, maybe in a social media debate. Whatever the reason, the threat of my past ideas being used to thwart my present and future plans admittedly weighs on me.

I'll be in a flow, typing word after word and riffing on what I think is an insightful piece, and then ... boom. I hear future Kevin asking, "What will people 20 years from now think of this?" That's when present Kevin contemplates erasing a few words, softening my tone and changing an explicit conclusion into one that readers will have to pick up between the lines.

Usually, that's when I channel the idea of timshel. After you read "East of Eden," you'll have a particularly deep understanding of why I think about one of Steinbeck's most important thoughts. Your past cannot and should not be allowed to dictate your future. Just as his book traces our ability to grow, learn and improve, I dare myself to share my growth, my mistakes and my improvements with a wider audience.

It's scary. It may come back to bite me. But it will all be worth it if my pieces help challenge others to engage in a more honest and open discourse with their friends and community. It's true that some ideas aren't worth discussing—for example, the merits of ethnic cleansing. Society is pretty good at drawing bright red lines around certain subjects. But there is a difference between indefensible ideas and controversial ones. It's the controversial ones that push us to examine our own biases, our own assumptions and our own areas for growth.

When folks like Nicholas Kristof, a New York Times columnist and potential candidate for Oregon governor, dive into controversies, their explorations should be celebrated and never used as evidence against their pursuit of important positions. Yet, some folks are already citing old Kristof pieces as reasons to doubt his credibility and capacity to serve in office.

Kristof and others who dare to share their perspectives on

By KEVIN FRAZIER

The Fulcrum

Kevin Frazier, a student at the University of California, Berkeley School of Law, runs The Oregon Way, a nonpartisan blog.



controversial subjects are performing a public service. The second that concerns about our future selves silence our present voices is the second that our democratic discourse becomes monotone. That's a reality we cannot accept. You don't learn from monotone. You don't ask new questions in an environment where every controversy is easily resolved. You don't progress as a society if people self-censor their struggles with difficult concepts.

In "East of Eden," we see characters evolve in the face of new challenges. That's all we can ask of anyone. We're all better than our worst day and all more thoughtful than a single piece. So pick up a pen and paper, share your ideas and dare to deliberate.

Will Biden invite Afghanistan to his democracy summit?

The White House will soon be sending invitations to world leaders for its "Summit of Democracy," currently scheduled for Dec. 9 and 10. It promises to be a grand and noble affair, with participants working to "build a shared foundation for global democratic renewal."

So it's worth asking if President Joe Biden plans to invite Ashraf Ghani, the president of Afghanistan. He is the leader of an "emerging democracy," to borrow a phrase from the Biden administration, that is on the verge of falling into totalitarian darkness. The Taliban has been advancing through Afghanistan in the last week, making so many gains that the U.S. has sent a contingent of troops to Kabul to plan for the evacuation of the U.S. Embassy there. U.S. officials are now predicting that Kabul could fall to the Taliban within a month.

Undoubtedly the Biden administration would prefer that Afghanistan be forgotten by the time the president addresses his fellow leaders of democracies in December. One of Biden's 2020 campaign pledges was to renew U.S. democratic leadership after four years of former President Donald Trump's embrace of dictators.

It's a nice story, and there is a kernel of truth to it. But this narrative rings hollow in light of recent events in Afghanistan.

It's now all but certain that the Taliban will overthrow an elected government made possible by a 20-year investment of U.S. blood and treasure. Biden's decision to rapidly withdraw the remaining few thousand U.S. forces from Afghanistan precipitated the extinguishing of democracy in this troubled country.

It has been a bloodbath. Since June, local Afghans and outside groups estimate that the Taliban have executed as many as 900 people in Kandahar province. Among the victims was a popular Afghan comic, Nazar Mohammed, whose torture before he was shot was captured on a viral video. In Kabul, the Taliban have killed journalists and prosecutors.

In the face of this slaughter, the U.S. has engaged in humiliating diplomacy with the thugs responsible for it. Biden's envoy, Zalmay Khalilzad, traveled this week to Doha, Qatar, to plead with the Taliban not to overrun the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, even as it's overrunning provincial capitals throughout the country. On Wednesday, White House spokeswoman Jen Psaki mused that the Taliban must "make an assessment about what they want their role to be in the international community."

A president committed to a global democratic renewal would understand that the Taliban have no interest in playing a role in the international community, and that it would poison the inter-

By ELI LAKE

Bloomberg Opinion

Eli Lake is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering national security and foreign policy. He was the senior national security correspondent for the Daily Beast and covered national security and intelligence for the Washington Times, the New York Sun and UPI.



national community if they did. And yet as a result of Biden's decision to withdraw from Afghanistan with no conditions and no contingency plans, this is what his administration has been reduced to saying.

It's a far cry from the first hopeful weeks of Biden's presidency. In February, the president told the Munich Security Conference: "Democracy doesn't happen by accident. We have to defend it, fight for it, strengthen it, renew it." In light of the debacle in Afghanistan, does the American president expect any of his fellow democratic leaders to believe him when they come to Washington in December?

The Biden blowout is just beginning

A trillion dollars used to be a lot of money, even in Washington.

Now, a trillion-dollar spending bill is a trifle barely worth arguing over and the stuff of bipartisan consensus.

Oscar Wilde famously said that nothing succeeds like excess, but even he might blanch at the shameless profligacy that is America's new normal.

In their wisdom, Senate Republicans decided to help President Joe Biden pass a portion of his blow-out fiscal agenda, a \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill that is a prelude to an even bigger, vastly more consequential \$3.5 trillion reconciliation bill.

The infrastructure bill itself is, as fiscal analyst Brian Riedl of the Manhattan Institute notes, "one of the largest non-emergency spending bills of the past 50 years."

Republicans told themselves that only about half, \$550 billion, is new spending, and that by going along they can take the heat off of Democratic moderates Kyrsten Sinema and Joe Manchin, who are being constantly pressured to ditch the filibuster.

Perhaps, but there's no doubt that the GOP has blessed, and lent a bipartisan imprimatur, to a portion of the president's hoped-for historic spending spree. In so doing, they have taken at least a little ownership of an agenda they should want no part of.

Republicans will have much less influence, and perhaps none, on the next spate of spending, which is the so-called "soft" infrastructure (aka, a wish list of progressive social programs) after the

"hard" infrastructure in the bipartisan bill (roads, bridges, rail).

Under the reconciliation process, tax and spending bills evade the filibuster in the Senate, so Democrats can pass whatever they want so long as they hold all 50 of their senators.

The sheer numbers here are jaw dropping. Including the \$1.9 trillion so-called COVID-19 relief bill from earlier this year, Biden wants to spend nearly \$6 trillion in three measures passed within months of each other. In 2019, by point of comparison, the entire federal budget was \$4.4 trillion (and at the time, President Trump wasn't exactly tightening the country's fiscal belt).

The tide of new spending will add to already extraordinary levels of red ink.

The White House projects that the U.S. debt will reach 109.7% of GDP this year, higher than at the end of World War II when we had abandoned all fiscal restraint to win an existential struggle against two expansionistic totalitarian empires.

The Senate instructions for the reconciliation bill say that only half of it has to be paid for. Democrats will claim a dog's breakfast of purported savings and painless revenue increases, but the bulk of the new dollars will have to come from a tax increase that easily could rank as one of the biggest ever.

The parameters of the reconciliation bill were crafted by the socialist chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, Bernie Sanders, and it shows.

The priorities read like crib notes from his old presidential campaigns. The bill would add new government programs for

By RICH LOWRY

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Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.



the young and the old, from universal pre-K to tuition-free community college, to family and medical leave, to expansions of Obamacare and Medicare.

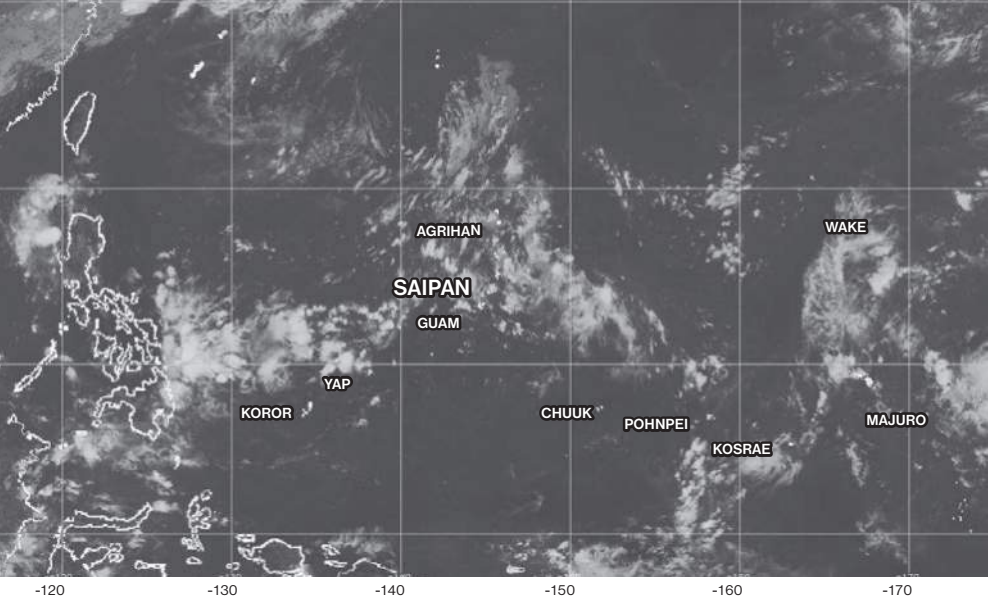
It would make a big nod to the Green New Deal with a slew of new clean energy initiatives, including "smart agriculture" and "environmental justice," and the creation of a Civilian Climate Corps, a climate-alarmist homage to FDR.

It is a sign of the insane ambition of Biden's Democrats that they hope as well to include a sweeping amnesty for illegal immigrants in the bill, a measure that is sure to be struck by the Senate parliamentarian on procedural grounds.

Relatively moderate Democrats in the Senate and the House, where the party also has little margin for error, have grumbled about the size of the reconciliation bill. It will be up to them to decide whether the party steps back from the precipice or goes all-in on Biden-Sanders fiscal radicalism.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
Breezy. Cloudy with numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 20 to 25 mph with gusts to 35 mph.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	
86°	76°	84°	76°	84°	76°	84°	76°	84°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 9:31 AM, MONDAY, AUGUST 16, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Light east winds and a few showers prevailed over the Marianas this morning. The big concern remains Tropical Depression 16W about 500 miles east of the Marianas this morning.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly sunny	82 / 92 °F	
Palau	Mostly cloudy	82 / 87 °F	
Yap	Cloudy	80 / 90 °F	
Chuuk	Mostly cloudy	79 / 87 °F	
Pohnpei	Mostly cloudy	80 / 88 °F	
Kosrae	Morning clouds	81 / 86 °F	
Majuro	Morning clouds	82 / 86 °F	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:02 AM	6:39 PM
Wednesday	6:02 AM	6:38 PM
Thursday	6:03 AM	6:38 PM
Friday	6:02 AM	6:37 PM
Saturday	6:03 AM	6:36 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:30 AM	1:54 PM
Wednesday	-	1:25 AM	2:57 PM
Thursday	-	2:24 AM	3:59 PM
Friday	-	3:26 AM	4:58 PM
Saturday	-	4:29 AM	5:51 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Scattered showers	44 / 52 °F	
Beijing	Mostly sunny	68 / 87 °F	
Hong Kong	Morning clouds	83 / 93 °F	
Honolulu	Mostly sunny	59 / 68 °F	
London	Sunny	60 / 73 °F	
Los Angeles	Morning clouds	63 / 80 °F	
Manila	Strong thunderstorms	79 / 84 °F	
Melbourne	Broken clouds	43 / 55 °F	
Miami	Thunderstorms	81 / 87 °F	
New York	Mostly sunny	72 / 86 °F	
Osaka	Sunny	76 / 95 °F	
Paris	Morning clouds	61 / 73 °F	
Pusan	Afternoon clouds	79 / 93 °F	
Rome	Sunny	67 / 91 °F	
Salem	Light showers	55 / 73 °F	
San Francisco	Morning clouds	55 / 71 °F	
Seoul	Afternoon clouds	76 / 93 °F	
Tokyo	Sunny	75 / 90 °F	
Washington, DC	Showers	66 / 84 °F	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
1:25 AM	High Tide	2.00	
9:04 AM	Low Tide	0.11	
4:28 PM	High Tide	1.75	
9:11 PM	Low Tide	1.39	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 1, 2021

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	2, 4, 5, 7	UA174	4:50am	5:50am	1, 3, 6
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 3, 6	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	2, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	2, 5 via Guam	UA184/174	9:50pm	5:50am+1	2, 5 via Guam
UA117/183	6:30am	9:10pm	3, 6, 7 via Guam	UA184/174	10:25pm	8:11am+1	3, 6, 7 via Guam
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	6:55pm	8:50pm	2, 5	UA184	9:50pm	4:00am+1	2, 5
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	3, 6, 7	UA184	10:25pm	4:40am+1	3, 6, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily	1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily	1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily	1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily	1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily	1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily	TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
ROTA TO GUAM				FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Business

NMI employers' input on workforce needs sought

The CNMI Department of Labor's Workforce Investment Agency and the CNMI State Workforce Development Board are working with Max Impacts: Maxine Laszlo Consulting to seek CNMI private sector employers' input via a Business Needs Assessment survey.

The purpose of this survey is to better understand businesses and nonprofits' current and projected employment needs so that WIA and the SWDB can best support the training, employment, and retention of employees in the CNMI.

The survey takes approximately 10 minutes to complete. Participation in the survey is voluntary and anonymous; survey responses will not be traced back

to the survey taker or their employer and will strictly be used for aggregate reporting purposes. The survey can be accessed at <https://tinyurl.com/2021WIASurvey>.

"As the CNMI moves forward with the revival of our tourism industry, we must ensure our decisions are rooted in present workforce data," said Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente. "Through this partnership between the CNMI Department of Labor's WIA Division and the CNMI SWDB, we can understand the current needs of our employers and adequately equip our job seekers as we restart the economy."

"The Business Needs Assessment will provide the insight needed to determine which training programs we

should prioritize," said SWDB chair Josephine Mesta. "We must be good stewards of the federal resources on behalf of our job seekers, and to do that, we have to invest in the types of training programs that will help them stay employed and provide for their families in this next chapter of the CNMI's labor market."

Employers are asked to complete the survey no later than Friday, Aug. 27, 2021. Employers who complete the survey will be entered in a chance to win a \$25 gift certificate to the restaurant of their choice (2 drawings for Saipan, 1 for Rota, and 1 for Tinian).

If you have any questions regarding this survey or prefer to complete this survey in an alternate format, contact 285-7739. (PR)

Japan ekes out economic growth in recovery

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's economy grew at an annual rate of 1.3% in the last quarter, raising hopes for a gradual recovery from the painful impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

The Cabinet Office reported Monday seasonally adjusted gross domestic product, or GDP, the sum of the value of a nation's products and services, grew 0.3% in April-June, marking a reversal from the 0.9% contraction in the previous quarter for the world's third-largest economy.

The annualized rate is how much the economy would have grown or contracted had the on-quarter rate continued for a year.

Underlining growth for April-June in Japan were private consumption, rising at an annual rate of 3.4%, and private residential investment, which grew at an 8.6% annual rate.

Exports jumped at an annual rate of 12.3%, as Japan benefited from the ongoing overseas economic revival from the pandemic damage. Imports surged 21.9%.

John Hansen, president of the Nebraska Farmers Union, which is part of a group lobbying Congress for new immigration laws. Vilifying immigrants "just makes it harder to get there." The population trend is clear in Nebraska, where only 24 of the state's 93 counties gained residents. Of those 24, just eight reported an increase in the white population, suggesting that most of the growth was driven by minorities, said David Drozd, a research coordinator for the University of Nebraska Omaha's Center for Public Affairs Research.

Study: German emissions to grow by largest amount since 1990

BERLIN (AP)—Germany is forecast to slip back below the threshold it had set for cutting greenhouse gases by 2020, amid a post-pandemic recovery and unfavorable conditions for renewable energy, according to a report by an environmental think tank Sunday. Berlin-based Agora Energiewende examined data from the first half of 2021 to forecast that total emissions in Germany this year will be equivalent to somewhere between 760 million to 812 million tons of CO₂. This would put Germany's emissions about 35-39% below 1990 levels. The German government had pledged to achieve cuts of 40% by 2020—a target it claimed to have reached last year, in large part due to the pandemic-related economic downturn. This year's rebound of about 47 million tons of carbon dioxide in 2021 would be the biggest increase since 1990, Agora Energiewende said. Utility companies said they burned significantly more coal in the first six months of this year than in the same period of 2020, while poor weather conditions hampered the production of wind and solar power.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

India's Modi to unveil \$1.35 trillion infrastructure plan

NEW DELHI (AP)—India will soon launch a \$1.35 trillion national infrastructure plan that will boost the country's economy, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced Sunday as part of independence day celebrations. Wearing a flowing bright saffron-colored turban, Modi addressed the nation from New Delhi's 17th century Mughal-era Red Fort to mark the 74th anniversary of India's independence from British rule. He said the infrastructure plan will create job opportunities for millions of Indian youth. "It will help local manufacturers turn globally competitive and also develop possibilities of new future economic zones in the country," he said. India's economy, pummeled by the coronavirus pandemic, contracted 7.3% in the fiscal year that ended in March. Economists fear there will be no rebound similar to the ones seen in the U.S. and other major economies.

Rural population losses add to farm and ranch labor shortage

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—Rural America lost more population in the latest census, highlighting an already severe worker shortage in the nation's farming and ranching regions and drawing calls from those industries for immigration reform to help ease the problem. The census data released last week showed that population gains in many rural areas were driven by increases in Hispanic and Latino residents, many of whom come as immigrants to work on farms or in meatpacking plants or to start their own businesses. "We've struggled on this issue for a long time to try to come up with a more reasonable, common-sense approach," said

Nation



A surviving ceramic statue is seen outside a house that burned along North Arm Road in Plumas County near Taylorsville, Calif., Sunday, Aug. 15, 2021. AP

Wildfire threatens thousands of homes

QUINCY, Calif. (AP)—Thousands of Northern California homes were threatened Sunday by the nation's largest wildfire and officials warned the danger of new blazes erupting across the West was high because of unstable weather.

Thunderstorms that moved in starting Friday didn't produce much rain but whipped

up winds and generated lightning strikes across the northern Sierra where crews were battling the month-old Dixie Fire. Extreme heat returned Sunday with temperatures expected to top 100 degrees (38 Celsius).

"We're definitely still dealing with the possibility of lightning. Winds are all over

the place. Things are going to be pretty unstable for the next couple days," said fire spokesman Edwin Zuniga.

Gusts of up to 50 mph (80 kph) on Saturday pushed flames closer to Janesville, a town of about 1,500 people just east of Greenville, the small gold rush-era community decimated by the fire 10 days ago.

Biden team surprised by rapid Taliban gains in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden and other top U.S. officials were stunned on Sunday by the pace of the Taliban's nearly complete takeover of Afghanistan, as the planned withdrawal of American forces urgently became a mission to ensure a safe evacuation.

The speed of the Afghan government's collapse and the ensuing chaos posed the most serious test of Biden as commander in chief, and he was the subject of withering criticism from Republicans who said that he had failed.

Biden campaigned as a seasoned expert in international relations and has spent months downplaying the prospect of an ascendant Taliban while arguing that Americans of all political persuasions have tired of a 20-year war, a conflict that demonstrated the limits of money and military

might to force a Western-style democracy on a society not ready or willing to embrace it.

By Sunday, though, leading figures in the administration acknowledged they were caught off guard with the utter speed of the collapse of Afghan security forces. The challenge of that effort became

clear after reports of sporadic gunfire at the Kabul airport prompted Americans to shelter as they awaited flights to safety after the U.S. Embassy was completely evacuated.

"We've seen that that force has been unable to defend the country, and that has happened more quickly than we anticipated," Secretary of State Antony Blinken told CNN, referring to the Afghan military.



Biden

The turmoil in Afghanistan resets the focus in an unwelcome way for a president who has largely focused on a domestic agenda that includes emerging from the pandemic, winning congressional approval for trillions of dollars in infrastructure spending and protecting voting rights.

Biden remained at Camp David on Sunday, receiving regular briefings on Afghanistan and holding secure video conference calls with members of his national security team, according to senior White House officials. His administration released a single photo of the president alone in a conference room meeting virtually with military, diplomatic and intelligence experts. The next several days would be critical in determining whether the U.S. is able to regain some level of control over the situation.

US mulls COVID vaccine boosters for elderly

WASHINGTON (AP)—Warning of tough days ahead with surging COVID-19 infections, the director of the National Institutes of Health said Sunday the U.S. could decide in the next couple weeks whether to offer coronavirus booster shots to Americans this fall.

Among the first to receive them could be health care workers, nursing home residents and

other older Americans.

Dr. Francis Collins also pleaded anew for unvaccinated people to get their shots, calling them "sitting ducks" for a delta variant that is ravaging the country and showing little sign of letting up.

"This is going very steeply upward with no signs of having peaked out," he said.

Federal health officials

have been actively looking at whether extra shots for the vaccinated may be needed as early as this fall, reviewing case numbers in the U.S. "almost daily" as well as the situation in other countries such as Israel, where preliminary studies suggest the vaccine's protection against serious illness dropped among those vaccinated in January.

Asia

Taliban fighters take control of Afghan presidential palace after the Afghan President Ashraf Ghani fled the country, in Kabul, Afghanistan, Sunday, Aug. 15, 2021.

AP

Taliban sweep into Afghan capital after GOVERNMENT COLLAPSES

By AHMAD SEIR, RAHIM FAIEZ, TA-MEEM AKHGAR and JON GAMBRELL
ASSOCIATED PRESS

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The Taliban swept into Afghanistan's capital Sunday after the government collapsed and the embattled president joined an exodus of his fellow citizens and foreigners, signaling the end of a costly two-decade U.S. campaign to remake the country.

Heavily armed Taliban fighters fanned out across the capital, and several entered Kabul's abandoned presidential palace. Suhail Shaheen, a Taliban spokesman and negotiator, told The Associated Press that the militants would hold talks in the coming days aimed at forming an "open, inclusive Islamic government."

Earlier, a Taliban official said the group would announce from the palace the restoration of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, the formal name of the country under Taliban rule before the militants were ousted by U.S.-led forces in the wake of the 9/11 attacks, which were orchestrated by al-Qaida while it was being sheltered by the Taliban. But that plan appeared to be on hold.

Kabul was gripped by panic. Helicopters raced overhead throughout the day to evacuate personnel from the U.S. Embassy. Smoke rose near the compound as staff destroyed important documents, and the American flag was lowered. Several other

Western missions also prepared to pull their people out.

Fearful that the Taliban could reimpose the kind of brutal rule that all but eliminated women's rights, Afghans rushed to leave the country, lining up at cash machines to withdraw their life savings. The desperately poor—who had left homes in the countryside for the presumed safety of the capital—remained in parks and open spaces throughout the city.

Though the Taliban had promised a peaceful transition, the U.S. Embassy suspended operations and warned Americans late in the day to shelter in place and not try to get to the airport.

Commercial flights were suspended after sporadic gunfire erupted at the Kabul airport, according to two senior U.S. military officials. Evacuations continued on military flights, but the halt to commercial traffic closed off one of the last routes available for fleeing Afghans.

Dozens of nations called on all parties involved to respect and facilitate the departure of foreigners and Afghans who wish to leave.

More than 60 nations released the joint statement distributed by the U.S. State Department late Sunday night Washington time. The statement says that those in power and authority across Afghanistan "bear responsibility—and accountability—for the protection of human life and property, and for the immediate restoration of security and civil order."

The nations' statement also says that roads, airports and border crossings must remain open, and that calm

must be maintained.

Many people watched in disbelief as helicopters landed in the U.S. Embassy compound to take diplomats to a new outpost at the airport. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken rejected comparisons to the U.S. pull-out from Vietnam.

"This is manifestly not Saigon," he said on ABC's "This Week."

The American ambassador was among those evacuated, officials said. He was asking to return to the embassy, but it was not clear if he would be allowed to. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss ongoing operations.

As the insurgents closed in, President Ashraf Ghani flew out of the country.

"The former president of Afghanistan left Afghanistan, leaving the country in this difficult situation," said Abdullah Abdullah, the head of the Afghan National Reconciliation Council and a longtime rival of Ghani. "God should hold him accountable."

Ghani later posted on Facebook that he left to avert bloodshed in the capital, without saying where he had gone.

As night fell, Taliban fighters deployed across Kabul, taking over abandoned police posts and pledging to maintain law and order during the transition. Residents reported looting in parts of the city, including in the upscale diplomatic district, and messages circulating on social media advised people to stay inside and lock their gates.

'GAME OVER': Westerners rush to leave Kabul, rescue Afghans

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER and COLLEEN BARRY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The chop of U.S. military helicopters whisking American diplomats to Kabul's airport punctuated a frantic rush by thousands of other foreigners and Afghans to flee to safety as well, as a stunningly swift Taliban takeover entered the heart of Afghanistan's capital.

The U.S. was pouring thousands of fresh troops into the country temporarily to safeguard what was gearing up to be a large-scale airlift. It announced late Sunday it was taking charge of air-traffic control at the airport, even as it lowered the flag at the U.S. Embassy.

Sporadic gunfire at Kabul international airport Sunday frightened Afghan families fearful of Taliban rule and desperate for flights out, in an ever-more chaotic and compressed evacuation. NATO allies that had pulled out their forces ahead of the Biden administration's intended Aug. 31 withdrawal deadline were rushing troops back in as well this weekend, to airlift their citizens.

Some complained the U.S. was failing to move fast enough to bring to safety Afghans at risk of reprisal from the Taliban for past work with the Americans and other

NATO forces.

"This is murder by incompetence," said U.S. Air Force veteran Sam Lerman, struggling Sunday from his home in Woodbridge, Virginia, to find a way out for an Afghan contractor who had guarded Americans and other NATO forces at Afghanistan's Bagram air base for a decade.

Massouma Tajik, a 22-year-old data analyst, was among hundreds of Afghans waiting anxiously in the Kabul airport to board an evacuation flight.

"I see people crying, they are not sure whether their flight will happen or not. Neither am I," she said by phone, with panic in her voice.

Educated Afghan women have some of the most to lose under the fundamentalist Taliban, whose past government, overthrown by the U.S.-led invasion in 2001, sought to largely confine women to the home.

Taliban forces moved early Sunday into a capital beset by fear and declared they were awaiting a peaceful surrender, capping a stunning sweep of Afghanistan in just the past week.

That arrival of the first waves of Taliban insurgents into Kabul prompted the U.S. to evacuate the embassy building in full, leaving only acting ambassador Ross Wilson and a core of other diplomats operating at the airport.

World

Death toll of powerful earthquake in Haiti soars to 1,297

LES CAYES, Haiti (AP)—The death toll from a 7.2-magnitude earthquake in Haiti climbed to 1,297 on Sunday, a day after the powerful temblor turned thousands of structures into rubble and set off frantic rescue efforts ahead of a potential deluge from an approaching storm.

Saturday's earthquake also left at least 5,700 people injured in the Caribbean nation, with thousands more displaced from their destroyed or damaged homes. Survivors in some areas were forced to wait out in the open amid oppressive heat for help from overloaded hospitals.

The devastation could soon worsen with the coming of Tropical Depression Grace, which is predicted to reach Haiti on Monday night. The U.S. National Hurricane Center warned that although Grace had weakened from tropical storm strength Sunday, it still posed a threat to bring heavy rain, flooding and landslides.

The earthquake struck the southwestern part of the hemisphere's poorest nation, almost razing some towns and triggering landslides that hampered rescue efforts in a country already struggling with the coronavirus pandemic, a presidential assassination and a wave of gang violence.

The epicenter was about 125 kilometers (78 miles) west of the capital of Port-au-Prince, the U.S. Geological Survey said, and aftershocks continued to jolt the area Sunday.

In the badly damaged coastal town of Les Cayes, Jennie Auguste lay on a flimsy foam mattress on the tarmac of the community's tiny airport waiting for anything—space at a hospital or a small plane like the ones ferrying the wounded to the capital. She suffered injuries in the chest, abdomen and arm when the roof collapsed at the store where she worked.

"There has been nothing. No help, nothing from the government," Auguste's sister, Bertrande, said.



Locals recover their belongings from their homes destroyed in the earthquake in Camp-Perrin, Les Cayes, Haiti, Sunday, Aug. 15, 2021. **AP**

LES CAYES, Haiti (AP)—Under Haiti's burning heat, Jennie Auguste lies with a lost, thousand-yard stare on a flimsy foam mattress placed on an airport's tarmac. A resident of the southwestern part of the Caribbean nation, Auguste has wounds in the chest, abdomen and arm after the roof of the store she worked at collapsed during a powerful earthquake over the weekend.

She flashes the occasional grimace of pain while her sister or other helpful bystanders fan her. In the badly damaged coastal town of Les Cayes, health care is at capacity, so Auguste can now only wait—for space at a local hospital, or a spot on one of the small

In scenes widespread across the region hit by the quake, families salvaged their few belongings and spent the night

Quake injured wait for help

planes that are ferrying injured people to Haiti's capital.

"There has been nothing. No help, nothing from the government," Auguste's sister, Bertrande, said Sunday as Haitians were still trying to take stock of everything around them as the death toll from disaster soared.

The country's Civil Protection Agency said 1,297 dead from the magnitude 7.2 earthquake had been counted by Sunday, a day after the temblor turned thousands of structures into rubble and set off frantic rescue efforts ahead of a potential deluge from an approaching storm.

at an open-air football pitch. On Sunday, people lined up to buy what little was available: bananas, avocados and water

Saturday's earthquake also left at least 5,700 people injured, with thousands more displaced from destroyed or damaged homes. After sundown Sunday, Les Cayes was darkened by intermittent blackouts, and many people slept outside again, clutching small transistor radios tuned to news, terrified of the continuing aftershocks.

The devastation could soon worsen with the coming of Tropical Depression Grace, which is predicted to reach Haiti on Monday night. The civil protection agency said Haitians must expect strong winds, heavy rain, rough

at a local street market.

Some in the town praised God for surviving the earthquake, and many went to the

seas, landslides and flooding.

Officials said more than 7,000 homes were destroyed and nearly 5,000 damaged. Hospitals, schools, offices and churches were also affected.

The quake centered about 125 kilometers (78 miles) west of the capital of Port-au-Prince nearly razed some towns and triggered landslides that hampered rescue efforts in a country that is the poorest in the Western Hemisphere. It already was struggling with the worsening poverty, the coronavirus pandemic, the political uncertainty following the July 7 assassination of President Jovenel Moïse and a wave of gang violence.

cathedral, which appeared outwardly undamaged even if the priests' residence was destroyed.

"We only have Jesus now," said Johanne Dorely, whose house was destroyed. "If it wasn't for Jesus, I wouldn't be able to be here today."

Workers tore through rubble of collapsed buildings with heavy machinery, shovels and picks. After sundown, Les Cayes was darkened by intermittent blackouts, and many slept people outside again, clutching small transistor radios tuned to news, terrified of a possible repetition of Saturday's strong aftershocks.

Prime Minister Ariel Henry has declared a one-month state of emergency for the whole country and said he was rushing aid to areas where towns were destroyed and hospitals were overwhelmed.

"The first convoys started following the coordination efforts of several ministers mobilized at the level of the National Emergency Center," Henry told reporters Sunday. "We salute the dignity, the resilience effort of the victims and their ability to start over. From my observations, I deduce that Haitians want to live and progress. Let us unite to offer these people a living environment conducive to development."

UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore said Sunday that humanitarian needs are acute, with many Haitians urgently needing health care, clean water and shelter. Children who have been separated from parents need protection, she said.

"Little more than a decade on, Haiti is reeling once again," Fore said in a statement. "And this disaster coincides with political instability, rising gang violence, alarmingly high rates of malnutrition among children, and the COVID-19 pandemic—for which Haiti has received just 500,000 vaccine doses, despite requiring far more."

The country of 11 million people received its first batch of U.S.-donated coronavirus vaccines only last month via a United Nations program for low-income countries.

WORLD BRIEFS

Turkey evacuates some flooding victims; death toll hits 62

ISTANBUL (AP)—Turkey sent ships to help evacuate people and vehicles from a northern town on the Black Sea that was hard hit by flooding, as the death toll in the disaster rose Sunday to at least 62 and more people than that remained missing. Torrential rains pounded the country's northwestern Black Sea provinces on Wednesday, causing flooding that demolished homes, severed bridges, swept away cars and rendered nu-

merous roads unpassable. The Turkish disaster agency AFAD said 52 people were killed in the province of Kastamonu, nine in Sinop and one in Bartın. Turkey's interior minister said 77 people were still missing in the flooding. Eight remained hospitalized. Emergency crews across the region kept up the search for the missing amid the many buildings that have partially collapsed. The Turkish defense ministry sent two ships to evacuate people and vehicles from a town in Sinop. They also sent military vehicles that can serve as temporary bridge-

es to help get access to areas where bridges were wiped out.

Jerusalem covered in smoke as wildfire rages outside city

JERUSALEM (AP)—A massive wildfire outside of Jerusalem on Sunday sent a thick cloud of smoke over the city as authorities struggled to contain the blaze. The cloud stretched over much of the city on Sunday afternoon, covering the skies overhead with a black and orange blanket of smoke. After nightfall, the fire remained out of control. Hundreds of

of firefighters from across the country were trying to bring the blaze under control, as hot, dry weather and heavy winds were complicating the efforts. Several communities just west of Jerusalem were evacuated, and nearby roads were closed to traffic. Residents in some areas were seen spraying down their properties with water hoses in hopes of slowing the approaching flames. Prime Minister Naftali Bennett convened an emergency meeting of top officials, while Defense Minister Benny Gantz ordered the Israeli military's Home Front

Command to send additional firefighters and aircraft to help in the effort.

Trudeau triggers Canadian election, voting day Sept. 20

TORONTO (AP)—Prime Minister Justin Trudeau triggered an election Sunday as he seeks to capitalize on Canada being one of the most fully vaccinated countries in the world. Trudeau announced the election would be held on Sept. 20 after visiting the governor general, who holds a mostly ceremonial position representing

Britain's Queen Elizabeth II as head of state. "We've had your back, and now it's time to hear your voice," Trudeau said. "Canadians need to choose how we finish the fight against COVID-19." Trudeau is seeking to win a majority of seats in Parliament. His Liberal Party fell just short of that two years ago and must rely on the opposition to pass legislation. The election comes as Canada is experiencing a new wave of COVID-19 cases, driven by the delta variant of the coronavirus. Trudeau called it "the fourth wave amongst unvaccinated people."

Overdrive

Women often overcharged for automobile repair; 5 tips to keep costs down

By GARFIELD HYLTON
ORLANDO SENTINEL

A new study says shops often overcharge women for auto repairs. Women are generally quoted higher prices, and they are uninformed about the costs, according to a Journal Marketing Research study “Repairing the Damage: The Effect of Price Knowledge and Gender on Auto Repair Price Quotes.” The study investigated

whether consumers were treated differently based on how well informed the consumer appeared. Authors found that repair shops quoted higher prices to callers who cited a benchmark price and that women are charged more than men when they seem uninformed about market prices. Researchers found repair shops are more likely to offer lower prices if asked to do so by a woman than if asked by a man, according to the study.

Prashant Salla, the founder of FixMyCar, says some women don’t feel comfortable going to an auto repair shop due to unfair treatment and the possibility of being overcharged. Salla offered five tips to help people get their vehicles fixed without paying too much.

1 Get it in writing. Avoid a situation where you are verbally quoted one price and forced to pay another.

2 User your owner’s manual.

Common issues are found in the owner’s manual. Salla suggests if you can’t find yours, check for a PDF copy online.

3 Keep up on routine maintenance. Routine maintenance helps to keep vehicles running smoothly. Falling behind will cause issues to arise.

4 Find a mechanic you can trust. Salla believes finding a mechanic you can trust will ensure you are getting a fair deal.

5 Keep track of what’s been done. Everyone should keep a file of all the work done on their vehicles. “Keep an envelope or file where you can keep all the receipts of work that has been done,” Salla says.

Keep your cool over water dripping from car

MOTORMOUTH

By BOB WEBER
Tribune News Service



Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. Send questions along with name and town to motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.

Q : I have a 2014 Kia Soul with just over 37,000 miles on it. Yesterday I was backing into my drive and noticed water drops on the concrete. I looked under the car, and they were dripping from somewhere close to the back of the engine. I do not think it was brake fluid, not oil, but suspect it could be just condensation from the A/C since it’s very hot here in Las Vegas right now. The engine temperature gauge shows normal, the A/C blows cold, and the radiator and coolant reservoir are both full. Any suggestions?

A: I suggest that you relax. What you see is perfectly normal. Most people don’t notice the water drops on the ground. Sometimes, the pavement is so hot the water evaporates almost immediately, particularly on asphalt. In fact, if the condensation is unable to escape, your air conditioner will not work properly.

Q: My vehicle has an auto stop/start function. My husband thinks this is very bad for the engine, saying that the most wear and tear occurs when starting. He thinks this is an awful feature that should be turned off. I like the idea of not polluting the air needlessly, but then again, I don’t want to ruin the car if this is creating excessive wear and tear on the engine. Do you have any information on this topic?

A: Your husband may be referring to the fact that most engine wear occurs when the engine is cold. Once warmed up, the engine is unaffected by starting and stopping. Not only is your car polluting less, but it is also getting improved fuel economy.

Q: I have a running debate with my brother regarding parking brake usage. I say that using it before you put a vehicle in park helps take pressure off the transmission—especially on sloped streets and driveways. He says it doesn’t make any difference. The unpleasant “clunk” or “chunk” sound when putting it in gear without using the parking brake can’t be good for the long-term health of the transmission. Let me know your thoughts on this one.

A: When you put the gear selector in park, a pawl (pin) engages to prevent engine power from reaching the drive wheels. It is not there to keep the vehicle from rolling. That is the job of the parking brake, which should be used every time before placing the shifter in park. Without the brakes the pawl can wear or eventually break.

Q: I took my 1997 Maxima in for an emission test with no engine light on or codes showing up. I was told it was not ready to be tested and I had to drive it for a while to be ready. It had been sitting for about three weeks when I went straight in to be tested. Does the computer have to be cycled again just because I had not driven it for a while?

A: Being parked or stored will not affect the engine control module. There may have been a pending code stored prior to when you parked the car. You may have to drive it to clear any pending codes.

Q My check engine light for gas tank keeps coming on in my 2001 Toyota RAV4 with 84,000 miles. I have had multiple mechanics look at this and various “fixes” were done but nothing seems to work. I even bought a new gas cap. After all these procedures it still comes on. Latest suggestion is to replace charcoal cleaner. But after all this time and money, I am not sure what to do next. It runs perfectly.

A: The gas cap is the most common problem, but RAV4 vehicles of that vintage have had issues with the charcoal canister (not cleaner), which stores fuel vapors to prevent pollution. If you have replaced the cap, check the filler pipe seat for nicks or scratches that may prevent a good seal. If all is well, the canister or its components may be the culprit.

IN CELEBRATION OF HER NEW LIFE

†Sophia Patricia Aldan Demapan

Born on April 30, 2001 | Died on July 27, 2021
Lovingly known as “Sophie”

In her new life, she now joins her:
Great-Grandmother: †Vicenta A. Villagomez
Uncle: †Gordon R. Demapan
Auntie: †Velma D. Reyes

Her wonderful and loving memories will forever live in the hearts of her:
Son: Skyler Jordan C. Demapan
Special Friend: Stephon N. Camacho
Mother: Krystal V. Aldan/Blaren N. Castro
Father: Ignacio Jr. Demapan/Alyssa Tenorio
Siblings: Gordon A. Demapan/Lucia Taimanao
Ignacio Demapan III/Tori Weaver
Bernard A. Demapan
Warren A. Demapan

Maternal Grandparents: Patricia V. Hocog/Julian Hocog
Antonio P. Aldan/Belinda Aguon
Paternal Grandparents: Ignacio Demapan Sr./
Frieda Demapan
Godparents: Vicente Deleon Guerrero
Paula Demapan Sohail

Sophie is also loved and cherished by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews, nieces, and friends.

On Thursday, August 19, 2021, the following services will take place at Mount Carmel Cathedral. Responso at 8:30am followed immediately with public viewing. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30am.

Si Yu’us Ma’ase for your thoughts and prayers.

The Family

Life & Style

‘Free Guy’ gives box office a lift, opening with \$28.4M

NEW YORK (AP)—“Free Guy,” an action comedy starring Ryan Reynolds as a background character in a videogame, opened better than expected over the weekend, collecting an estimated \$28.4 million in ticket sales despite a marketplace challenged by COVID-19.

After a few weeks of declining audiences and underwhelming debuts amid the delta variant surge, “Free Guy” succeeded with an old-school formula: an original, star-fronted movie with good word-of-mouth playing only in theaters. The movie directed by Shawn Levy was made by the Walt Disney Co.-owned 20th Century Fox, with a theatrical release contractually stipulated for the roughly \$100 million production.

Playing in 4,165 North American theaters, “Free Guy” was expected to debut around \$20 million. Its surprisingly strong opening gave further proof to what some analysts have been saying throughout the year—hybrid releases that send new movies immediately onto streaming platforms can significantly harm ticket sales. The last two No. 1 movies—Warner Bros.’ “The Suicide Squad” and Disney’s “Jungle Cruise”—were launched simultaneously in theaters and homes.

But however movies are being released right now, box office conditions are far from ideal. The rise in U.S. coronavirus cases over the last month has corresponded with diminished ticket sales at theaters. Some cities, including New York and San Francisco, are preparing to make vaccine



This image released by 20th Century Studios shows Ryan Reynolds in a scene from “Free Guy.”
20TH CENTURY STUDIOS VIA AP

passports required for entering movie theaters.

David A. Gross, who runs the movie consultancy Franchise Entertainment Research, estimates that new releases are selling about half the tickets they normally would.

“Since Memorial Day weekend, the domestic box office has been running at approx. 50% of 2019 levels, with several spikes from strong titles, but then returning to 50% of 2019,” Gross said in an email. “Under normal conditions, ‘Free Guy’ would be opening 50% higher than this weekend’s number—comfortably.”

But the enthusiasm for “Free Guy” was enough to lead Reynolds to announce Saturday that Disney wants a sequel. In the film, Reynolds’ character, Guy, realizes he’s a “non playable character” in a “Grand Theft Auto”-like game. It features co-stars Jodie Comer, Lil Rel Howery and Taika Waititi.

Reviews were good (82% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes), and

a male-heavy audience gave “Free Guy” an “A” CinemaScore. (About 60% of moviegoers were male, Disney said.) “Free Guy” also added \$22.5 million internationally.

“Free Guy” is also the latest in a comeback for gaming-based movies. After decades of futility, Hollywood is increasingly finding success by mining videogames for intellectual property. Reynolds starred in one of the best performing videogame adaptations—2019’s “Pokémon: Detective Pikachu,” which grossed \$432 million worldwide.

“Free Guy” will play exclusively in theaters for at least 45 days—and its strong performance through the weekend suggests it could buck the summer’s typical trend of fast drop offs.

Last week’s top film, “The Suicide Squad,” slid steeply, dropping 70% in its second weekend. After its \$26.2 million debut, James Gunn’s “Suicide Squad” redo pulled in just \$7.8 million for Warner Bros.,

bringing its two-week total to \$42.9 million. It’s concurrently playing on HBO Max.

That film’s tumble gave a few other releases more room at multiplexes. Sony Pictures’ horror sequel “Don’t Breathe 2” opened with \$10.6 million, in line with studio projections. While “Don’t Breathe 2” debuted with less than half the opening of the 2016 original, the sequel was made with a modest budget of \$15 million.

MGM and United Artists’ Aretha Franklin biopic “Respect,” starring Jennifer Hudson, debuted with \$8.8 million. “Respect,” which has drawn praise for Hudson’s leading performance, also landed an “A” CinemaScore. Its audience was 66% female and nearly half of ticket buyers were Black.

Disney’s “Jungle Cruise,” starring Emily Blunt and Dwayne Johnson, landed in third place in its third weekend with \$9 million. Its worldwide total is \$154.3 million. It’s also playing on Disney+ for an additional \$30.

Prominent fact-checker Snopes apologizes for plagiarism

NEW YORK (AP)—The co-founder and CEO of the fact-checking site Snopes.com has acknowledged plagiarizing from dozens of articles done by mainstream news outlets over several years, calling the appropriations “serious lapses in judgment.”

From 2015 to 2019—and possibly even earlier—David Mikkelsen included material lifted from the Los Angeles Times, The Guardian and others to scoop up web traffic, according to BuzzFeed News, which broke the story Friday.

Mikkelsen used his own name, a generic Snopes byline and a pseudonym when he lifted material, including single sentences and whole paragraphs on such subjects as same-sex marriage and the death of David Bowie, without citing the sources, BuzzFeed and Snopes said.

He has been suspended from editorial production pending the conclusion of an internal review but remains CEO and a 50% shareholder in the company, according to a statement from Snopes’ senior leadership.

“Let us be clear: Plagiarism undermines our mission and values, full stop. It has no place in any context within this organization,” the statement said.

In a separate statement, eight current Snopes writers also condemned Mikkelsen’s actions, while former staffers indicated to BuzzFeed that he routinely encouraged the practice as a way to make Snopes

appear faster than it was.

Mikkelsen did not immediately return an Associated Press email seeking comment Saturday. He told BuzzFeed his behavior was due to a lack of formal journalism experience.

“I didn’t come from a journalism background,” he said. “I wasn’t used to doing news aggregation. A number of times I crossed the line to where it was copyright infringement. I own that.”

Created in 1994 under a different name by Mikkelsen and his then-wife, Barbara Hamel, Snopes has earned two Webby Awards and served as one of Facebook’s fact-checking partners between December 2016 and February 2019, BuzzFeed News said. In recent years, the site has been the focus of a contentious ownership battle between Mikkelsen and the company that bought Hamel’s shares.

BuzzFeed News flagged stories from a range of outlets that also include The New York Times, CNN, NBC News and the BBC. Six were originally published under the Mikkelsen pseudonym Jeff Zarronandia, three under Mikkelsen’s name and the rest as “Snopes staff.” Snopes said it has identified 140 stories with possible problems, including the 54 found to include appropriated material.

Snopes also cited AP material that wasn’t properly attributed. It did not specify which stories.

Guilt after friend’s death calls for self-forgiveness

DEAR ABBY: My dearest friend passed away five years ago. He was a severe alcoholic, and his death resulted from it. I was aware of how bad things had gotten and I was trying to talk him into getting help. I live across the country but visited and spoke with him often. I was considering telling his parents how bad things were since they were mainly supporting him, but I was torn because he was an adult, and I didn’t know if it would be appropriate.

Well, while I was considering it, he passed away, and I haven’t been able to get over the guilt. I feel like I should’ve done more. I have a strong urge to tell his parents I knew how he was doing and was contemplating telling them and how sorry I am that I didn’t. Would it be selfish, like rubbing salt in their wounds, just so I can find some kind of peace? I have been going back and forth with this since his death. I have such regret that I didn’t do something more. I don’t know if their forgiveness would help me, or if I’d just be hurting them more. Your opinion on this would be helpful.

FULL OF REGRETS

DEAR FULL: Please forgive yourself and stop second-guessing. You are guilty of nothing more than being a caring friend. The deceased was responsible for his own alcohol-related death. If his parents were supporting him financial-

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



ly, they were already aware their son had a serious problem. Because after five years you cannot stop flogging yourself, you have two options: Discuss this with your religious adviser, or ask your doctor or your insurance provider to refer you for some sessions with a licensed psychotherapist with whom you can work through this.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have had a girlfriend for about three years, but I have recently begun to feel indifferent about our relationship. We have to travel at least 45 minutes to see each other and don’t always see each other on weekends. I have been trying to convince her to move into my townhome, but something new arises each time I bring it up.

Recently, a younger woman (she’s 21, I’m 32) showed an interest in me during one of my sports games. I have talked to her and won’t let any relationship develop outside of being friends. She’s religious and I’m not, and that’s a deal-breaker for me. I’m torn between continuing to try to build my current relationship, trying to pursue the new one, or taking a step back from relationships to focus on my personal goals. Any thoughts, Abby?

PONDERING IN PENNSYLVANIA

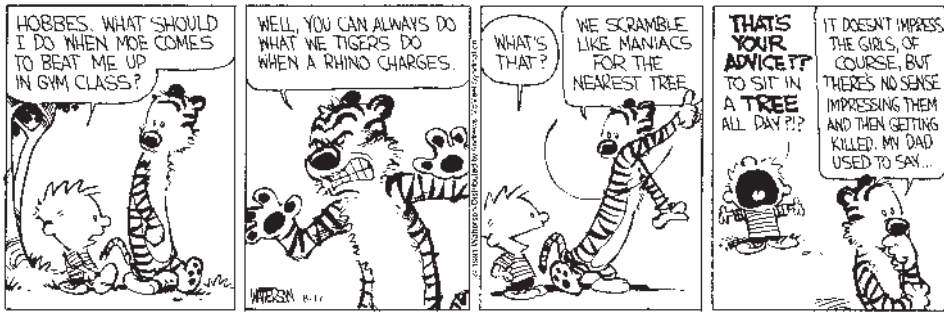
DEAR PONDERING: It doesn’t appear that you OR your girlfriend of three years is really ready to take things to the next level. If you were, you wouldn’t be debating whether to trade her in for a newer model. As to the younger one, you just stated clearly that her religiosity is a deal-breaker for you. Your third option makes the most sense. Concentrate on your personal goals for a while, and with time, your love life will work itself out.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order “How to Be Popular.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



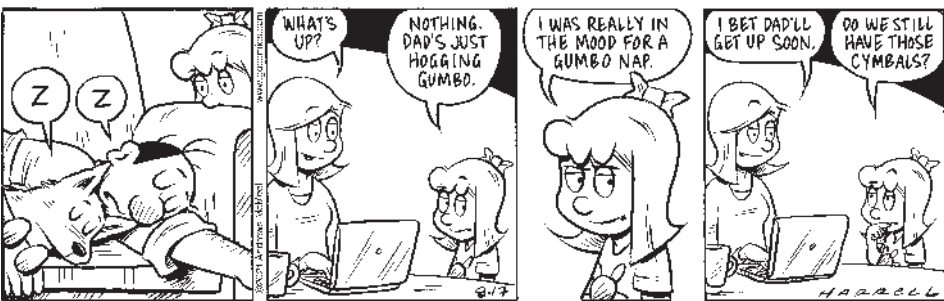
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



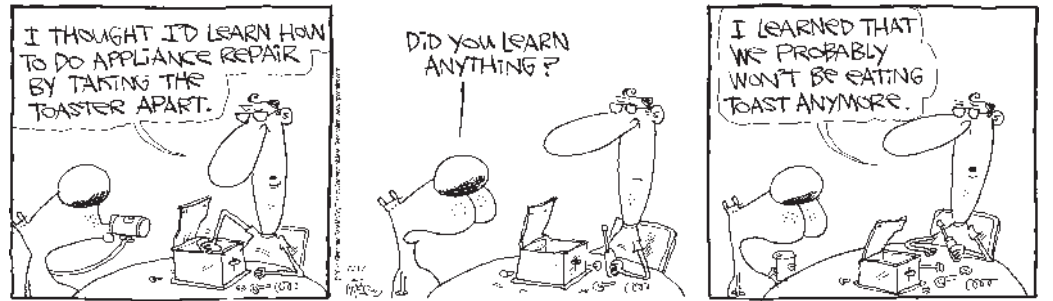
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Pottery oven
5 Gospel writer
9 UV ray-blocking stat
12 Canadian gas brand
13 — -Seltzer
14 Zodiac cat
15 Aviation aid
17 Shoe width
18 Actress Tyne
19 Cads
21 Like crazy
24 Get ready, briefly
25 Farm fraction
26 Multi-lingual
30 Greek cross
31 Composer Copland
32 Notable time
33 Schedule opening
35 Aspiring atty.'s exam

36 RSVP en-closure
37 Inventor Nikola
38 Singer LaBelle
40 Big fusses
42 Brit. record label
43 Stephen King novel
48 Calendar abbr.
49 Docile
50 French water-way
51 Pen filler
52 Roe provider
53 Must have

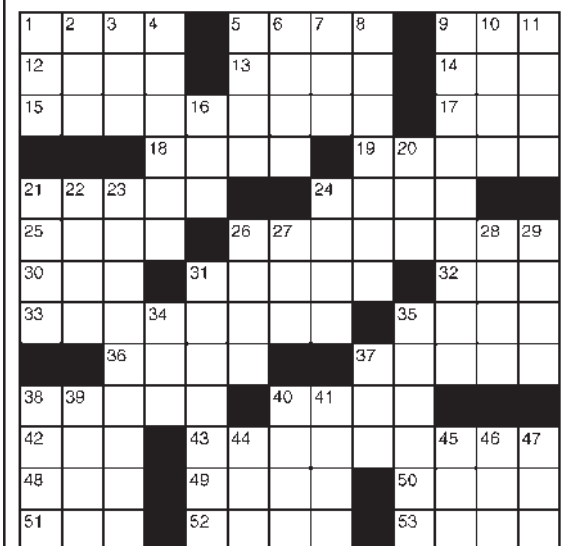
DOWN

1 Mauna —
2 Terre Haute sch.
3 D-Day vessel
4 Brain, slangily
5 Postal delivery
6 Friend
7 "Top Hat" studio
8 "Bad Moms" actress
9 Having insomnia
10 Rind
11 Nemeses
16 Salary
20 Brain scan (Abbr.)
21 Actor Damon
22 Exotic berry
23 Turkey choice
24 Conspiracy
26 Ashen
27 Acapulco gold
28 Spoken
29 "Toodle-oo!"
31 Hockey stats
34 "Dig in!"
35 Text-book chapter
37 Quarter-back
38 Brady
39 "So be it"
40 Mater lead-in
41 Monopoly card
44 Apt rhyme for "spa"
45 Fib
46 Sugary suffix
47 Actor Danson

Solution time: 22 mins.

A	V	I	S	C	H	O	K	O	F	I
M	A	R	A	T	H	O	N	E	P	C
F	L	A	G	R	A	N	T	N	E	V
E	S	T	E	E	C	E	L	L	E	D
R	E	E	D	F	L	A	G	G	E	D
A	R	A	T	A	L	I	A	S	O	N
F	A	K	I	F	R	S	A	R	I	
S	P	L	A	S	H	S	Q	U	A	T
C	E	C	S	F	L	A	N	A	G	A
A	R	T	E	U	L	T	E	R	I	O
B	U	S	S	L	D	S	E	L	L	A

Yesterday's answer 8-17



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Austin Butler, 30; Tammy Townsend, 51; Donnie Wahlberg, 52; Robert De Niro, 78.

Happy Birthday: Look for opportunities that help you expand your interests and circle of friends. Take a close look at your spending habits, and curb any unnecessary habits costing you too much. Show more discipline when it comes to your health, fitness and well-being. Take care of what you have, and strive to achieve a simpler and less stressful lifestyle. Your numbers are 4, 11, 18, 27, 31, 35, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): An open mind will help you gather the information that will encourage better decision-making. Stick to the people and projects you trust to lead you down the right path. Don't take on something without knowing the extent of what's expected of you. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Emotional matters will escalate if you jump to conclusions or an expenditure goes over budget. Get everything in writing before you agree to proceed. You may desire change, but don't make a move that isn't in your best interest. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Be honest about how you feel, and ask direct questions to find out where you stand with someone who is evasive. Spend time fixing up your space. Comfort and convenience will contribute to a healthy attitude and better personal relationships. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Talk to someone who can offer guidance or knowledge regarding something you

want to pursue. Knowledge is power, and without the facts in front of you, frustration and anger are likely to lead to an emotional incident. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): It's essential to test the waters. Mingle, share your thoughts and opinions, and listen to what others can contribute. Knowledge will help you gain insight into what's possible. Make fitness part of your daily routine. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Proceed with caution when dealing with emotional matters. Sparring with a loved one will result in an irreversible change in your relationship. Bide your time, be a good listener and go about your business. Focus on self-improvement, not trying to change others. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Friendly banter will help you get to know someone who interests you better. Socialize with peers, and you'll build respect and common ground that will improve your chance to advance. Personal upgrades will add to your comfort and confidence. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Be careful what you share with co-workers. A competitive situation will sprout quickly, leaving you in a vulnerable position. Concentrate on your work, not trying to get others to like you. Make whatever change is necessary to reach your objective. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Emotions will fester if you believe everything you hear. Someone will feed you false information to sway your opinion. Go directly to the source before you act. A problem with a friend or

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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loved one is best handled privately. ★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't take unnecessary risks with your health or physical well-being. Abide by the rules and avoid indulgence. An intelligent and well-informed decision will help bring about a positive change. Don't let uncertainty or inconsistency hold you back. Be direct and move forward. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Rely on facts and figures, not hearsay. Utilize your skills and stamina to help you finish what you start. Opportunities are within reach if you show concern, passion and the desire to make a difference. Romance will enhance your love life. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Change will require action. Consider what you can do to put yourself in a better financial position or ease your stress to improve your overall lifestyle and well-being. Don't give up or give in. Do your own thing. ★★

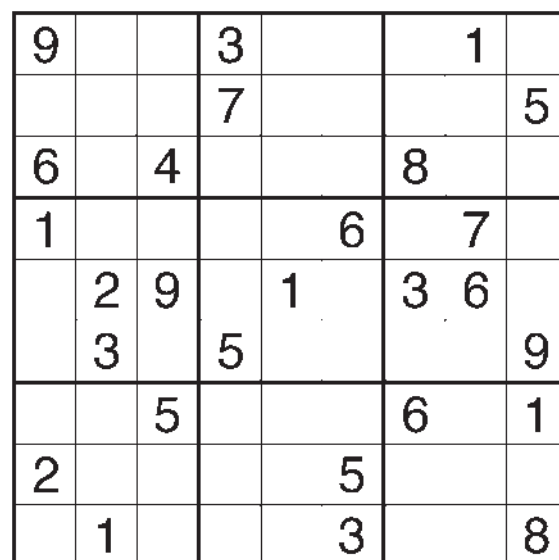
Birthday Baby: You are generous, extravagant and social. You are unique and persistent.

★ Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ★★ You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ★★★ Focus and you'll reach your goals. ★★★★★ Aim high; start new projects. ★★★★★ Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



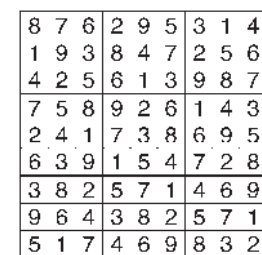
Difficulty Level ★★

8/17

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

DONALD RUMSFELD (1932-2021)

Solution: 9 letters



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8/17

Able, American, Appointment, Author, Aviator, Bush, Captain, Chairman, Chief of Staff, Degrees, Director, Envoy, Foundation, George, Henry, Honorary, Illinois, Jeanette, Joan, Joyce, Laws, Leadership, Main, Mayor, Mediator, Memoir, Name, NATO, Navy, Note, Page, Part, Path, Plane, President, Rode, Rummy, Scout, Searle, Served, Talk, Winnetka
Yesterday's Answer: Specialist
To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 47 through 82 order on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Tatis homers twice in return; Padres beat Diamondbacks, 8-2



PHOENIX
(AP)—Fer-

nando Tatis Jr. homered twice and drove in four runs in his return from the injured list, and the San Diego Padres beat the Arizona Diamondbacks 8-2 on Sunday.

The 22-year-old Tatis had four hits, helping the Padres snap a four-game losing streak. Playing right field for the first time in his professional career and batting lead-off, Tatis posted his fifth multihomer game this season and No. 8 for his career.

Jake Cronenworth's two-run homer in the fifth lifted San Diego to a 4-1 lead. Reiss Knehr (1-0) got the win.

Zac Gallen (1-7) started for the Diamondbacks and surrendered four runs over five innings.

Arizona's Josh Rojas hit a solo homer in the fifth. It was his 11th of the season.



San Diego Padres' Fernando Tatis Jr. connects for a home run, his second of the baseball game, against the Arizona Diamondbacks during the fifth inning, Sunday, Aug. 15, 2021, in Phoenix. AP

Yankees 5, White Sox 3

In Chicago, Rougned Odor hit a two-run homer and Nestor Cortes pitched six solid innings, leading the Yankees to the victory. Luke Voit also hit a two-run homer in the ninth for New York, which went 5-1 in the season series against Chicago.

Cortes (1-1) allowed one run and seven hits in his first win since Aug. 6, 2019, versus Baltimore. Wandy Peralta got two outs for his fourth save.

Andrew Vaughn hit his 14th homer for the AL Central-leading White Sox, who have dropped four of five. Lucas Giolito (9-9) lasted just four innings.

Indians 11, Tigers 0

In Detroit, Indians starter Triston McKenzie retired the first 23 Detroit batters in order before Harold Castro lined a single to right with two out in the eighth inning.

The 24-year-old right-hander stunned the Comerica Park crowd of 25,684 hoping to see Miguel Cabrera's 500th homer. Instead, they gave McKenzie (2-5) a standing ovation after Castro's hit and another after he finished the inning with his 11th strikeout.

Detroit's Drew Hutchison (0-1) allowed six runs while only getting five outs in his first major league game since a five-game stretch in the Texas Rangers rotation in August 2018.

Red Sox 6, Orioles 2

In Boston, Eduardo Rodriguez pitched six effective innings, J.D. Martinez hit a three-run homer and the Red Sox sent the Orioles to their 11th straight loss.

Boston has won four of five games after losing 10 of 12 and falling out of first place in the AL East.

The Orioles have been out-

scored 104-34 during their second-longest skid this season. They had a 14-game losing streak in May.

Baltimore's Cedric Mullins went 0 for 5, halting his 20-game hitting streak.

Rodriguez (9-6) allowed an unearned run and three singles. In his last 12 appearances against Baltimore, he is 9-0 with a 1.81 ERA.

Baltimore's Keegan Akin (0-7) allowed three runs in four innings.

Dodgers 14, Mets 4

In New York, Max Muncy hit a pair of two-run homers and Max Scherzer worked out of some trouble over six solid innings, leading Los Angeles to sweep of a three-game series in New York.

Muncy homered in the second off Carlos Carrasco and in the sixth off Yennsy Diaz. In between, he flew out to the warning track in center in the fourth against Jake Reed. The two-homer game was the second of the season for Muncy, who went deep twice against the Colorado Rockies on July 17. It was the seventh multihomer game of his career.

Scherzer (10-4) took the mound with a 3-0 lead thanks to a two-run homer by former Mets utilityman Justin Turner and a solo shot by Will Smith, who homered in all three games. He allowed two runs on four hits with two walks and seven strikeouts. He helped his cause with a sacrifice fly in the sixth.

Carrasco (0-1) gave up six runs on six hits and one walk with three strikeouts over two innings.

Cardinals 7, Royals 2

In Kansas City, Mo., Nolan

Arenado homered for the third straight game, and St. Louis completed an in-state sweep of Kansas City.

In the second inning, Arenado and Tyler O'Neill hit back-to-back homers for the second time in three games. The two-run shot for Arenado was No. 25 on the year, and O'Neill's shot was his 20th.

J.A. Happ (7-6) tossed 5 2/3 scoreless innings for St. Louis. He allowed five hits, struck out two and walked two.

Salvador Perez hit his 30th homer for Kansas City. Kris Bubic (3-6) was tagged for seven runs in 1 1/3 innings.

Braves 6, Nationals 5

In Washington, Dansby Swanson homered for the third straight game, and the Braves beat the Nationals to sweep the series.

Swanson hit a two-run drive to center to increase the Braves' lead to 3-0 in the third. It was his 24th of the season, a total that includes two from Saturday and another Friday for four of Atlanta's 11 homers in the three-game set.

The Braves have won a franchise-best eight straight games in Washington and 10 of 12 overall. They pulled a game ahead of Philadelphia for the NL East lead.

Jesse Chavez (3-2) got the win, and Will Smith worked a scoreless ninth to earn his 25th save.

The Nationals have lost a season-high seven straight. Paolo Espino (3-4) allowed five runs in four innings.

Reds 7, Phillies 4

In Philadelphia, Jonathan India homered and scored three times, leading Cincinnati to the victory.

India drove Aaron Nola's third pitch deep to left-center for his 15th homer. The rookie also singled and scored on Shogo Akiyama's two-run double in the third and singled and scored again on Tyler Naquin's bases-loaded walk in the fifth.

Tyler Stephenson added a two-run homer for Cincinnati, which took two of three in the weekend series. Lucas Sims (5-2) pitched 1 1/3 scoreless innings for the win, and Mychal Givens got four outs for his third save.

Bryce Harper drove in two runs and walked three times for Philadelphia, which lost for the fourth time in six games. Nola (7-7) was charged with four runs and six hits in 4 1/3 innings.

Marlins 4, Cubs 1

In Miami, Jazz Chisholm Jr. and Jesús Aguilar homered, and the Marlins handed the Cubs their 11th straight loss.

The game was tied at 1 before Chisholm connected against Alec Mills (5-5) in the sixth inning. Chisholm also singled and scored on Aguilar's 22nd homer in the seventh.

Miami right-hander Elieser Hernandez permitted one run and four hits in 5 1/3 innings. Paul Campbell (1-2) got two outs for the win, and Dylan Floro worked the ninth for his fifth save.

Chicago matched its longest slide of the season. It also dropped 11 straight from June 25 to July 6.

Frank Schwindel homered for the Cubs, and Mills pitched 5 2/3 innings of two-run ball.

Giants 5, Rockies 2

In San Francisco, Tommy La Stella had three hits and two

RBIs for San Francisco, and Alex Wood pitched into the seventh inning to win his fifth straight decision.

The Giants (76-42) took three of four from their division rivals heading into a three-game series against the New York Mets.

Wood (10-3) allowed two runs in 6 2/3 innings. Jake McGee pitched the ninth for his 25th save.

Connor Joe singled twice for the Rockies. Jon Gray (7-9) yielded three runs and seven hits in 4 1/3 innings.

Blue Jays 8, Mariners 3

In Seattle, Teoscar Hernández, Randal Grichuk, Corey Dickerson and Marcus Semien homered, powering Toronto to the win.

Hernández and Grichuk each hit their 20th homer as part of Toronto's three-run second inning against rookie Logan Gilbert (5-4), and the Blue Jays escaped Seattle without losing more ground in the American League wild-card race.

Steven Matz (10-7) pitched five innings of one-run ball, helping the Blue Jays stop a three-game slide.

Kyle Seager hit his 26th homer for Seattle.

Angels 3, Astros 1

In Anaheim, Calif., Reid Detmers pitched six innings of three-hit ball to earn his first major league victory, and the Angels avoided a three-game sweep.

David Fletcher and Jo Adell drove in runs with grounders to back Detmers (1-2), who struck out six and gave up one run while outdueling Lance McCullers Jr. Phil Gosselin homered in the eighth and

scored two runs for Los Angeles.

Michael Brantley homered and McCullers (9-4) yielded two runs while pitching into the sixth inning, but the AL West-leading Astros' four-game winning streak ended.

Raisel Iglesias escaped a jam in the eighth and then struck out Jose Altuve with two Astros in scoring position in the ninth for his 26th save.

Brewers 2, Pirates 1

In Pittsburgh, Willy Adames scored twice and Christian Yelich had two hits, helping Milwaukee to the road win.

Adames scored in the first and third as Milwaukee never trailed. The NL Central-leading Brewers took two of three in the series against the last-place Pirates.

Brent Suter (12-5) struck out two in the fifth to earn the win. Josh Hader pitched a perfect ninth for his 23rd save.

Dillon Peters (0-1), who was acquired from the Los Angeles Angels for cash in July, made his Pirates debut. He allowed one earned run and five hits in 4 2/3 innings.

Twins 5, Rays 4

In Minneapolis, Jorge Polanco hit a game-ending sacrifice fly in the ninth inning to lift Minnesota to the win.

Max Kepler led off the ninth with a line drive against Matt Wisler (3-5) that sliced away from left fielder Austin Meadows toward the foul line. Kepler reached second, and when the ball skipped under Meadows' glove for an error, he took an extra base. Two pitches later, Polanco hit a drive that was caught on the right-field warning track, scoring Kepler without a throw.

Mike Zunino and Wander Franco homered for the Rays.

Alex Colomé (3-4) pitched a scoreless ninth for the win.

Rangers 7, Athletics 4

In Arlington, Texas, rookie DJ Peters connected on a pair of two-run homers for Texas, and Kolby Allard was solid in his first win in two months.

Major league rookie home run leader Adolis García hit his 26th for the last-place Rangers, who took the deciding game of the series against the A's, who dropped into a tie for the AL wild card lead with Boston.

Allard (3-10) allowed Matt Chapman's third homer in two games among seven hits in 6 1/3 innings, winning for the first time since throwing five scoreless innings at the Dodgers on June 12.

Rookie Joe Barlow pitched a scoreless ninth for his second career save, finishing both of Texas' wins in this series.

Oakland's Sean Manaea (8-8) allowed seven runs in five innings.

Kevin Kisner wins 6-man playoff at Wyndham Championship



GREENSBORO, N.C. (AP)—Kevin Kisner finally broke his playoff drought to win the Wyndham Championship. He hopes the victory will help him achieve another milestone—representing the United States in the Ryder Cup.

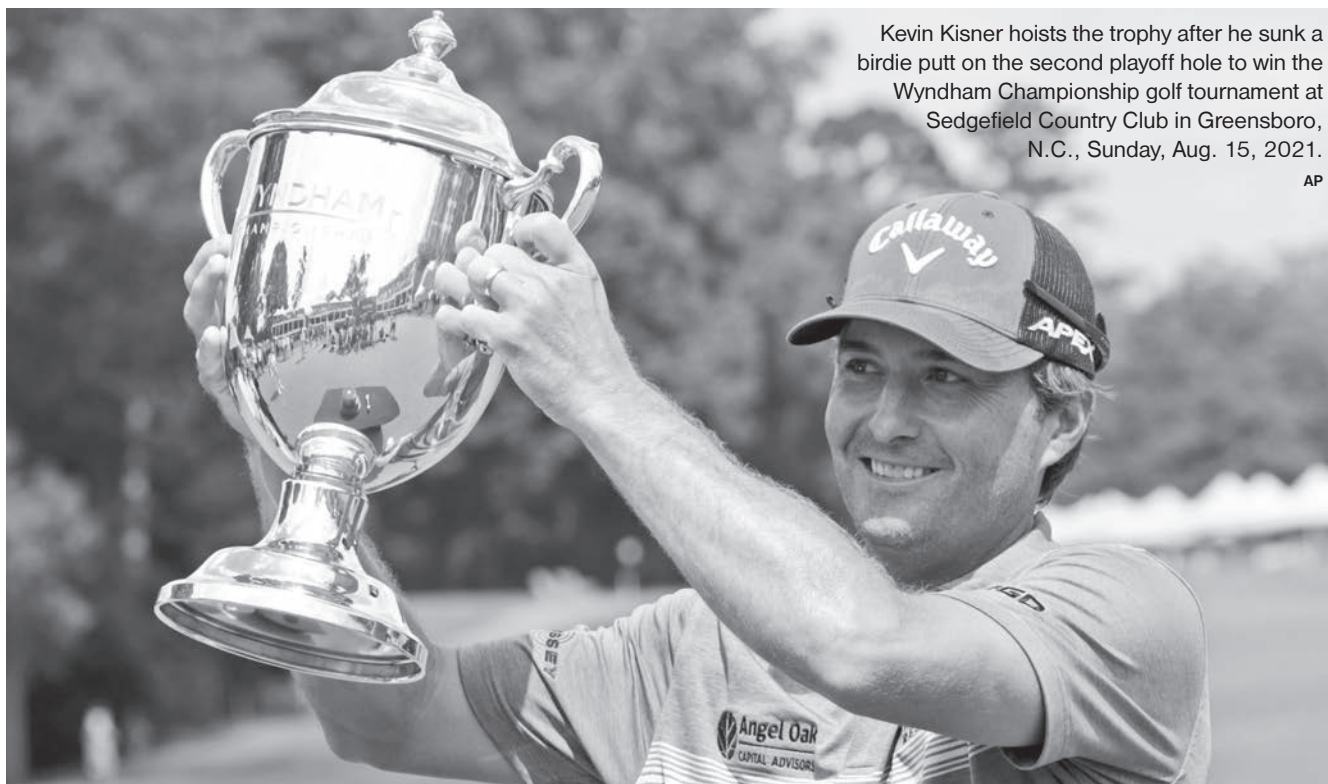
Kisner stuck his approach to 3 feet on the second extra hole and made the putt to win a record-tying six-man playoff on Sunday.

The 37-year-old Kisner, an excellent putter who now has four PGA Tour wins, has never qualified or been selected to represent the U.S. in the biennial matches against Europe. American captain Steve Stricker will make six picks after the Tour Championship, and Kisner believes he's at least put himself in the mix.

"Who knows, man?" Kisner said. "I've never been picked before, so I'm not going to go out there and jump on a limb and say that I'm going to get picked this year."

"I love Stricker, he's a great friend and great guy. He'll do what's best for the team and the country."

And that could mean Kisner, who's 23rd in the U.S. Ryder Cup points standings, yet has shaken off an uninspired year with improved play at the right time.



Kevin Kisner hoists the trophy after he sunk a birdie putt on the second playoff hole to win the Wyndham Championship golf tournament at Sedgefield Country Club in Greensboro, N.C., Sunday, Aug. 15, 2021.

AP

Kisner has shot in the 60s in 12 of his last 20 rounds. His 66 on Sunday at Sedgefield included birdies on the 16th and 17th holes to reach 15 under and the playoff.

In the playoff, he bested Adam Scott, Roger Sloan, Kevin Na, Si Woo Kim and Branden Grace after all had made pars on the first additional hole.

"To be standing here is pretty sweet," said Kisner, who had been 0-5 in playoffs.

With Scott looking at a 4-footer for birdie on the first

extra hole, Kisner thought he would have to hole a pitch from short of the 18th green just to stay in the playoff, and he nearly did it. Kisner grimaced as his ball settled just right of the cup.

But Scott's short putt missed badly and all six players went back to the 18th tee. This time, only Kisner gave himself a close look at birdie on the 505-yard closing hole.

Kim shot 64 in the final round. Scott had a 65 while Grace, Na and Sloan each closed with 66.

It was the third six-man playoff on the PGA Tour and the first since Robert Allenby won at Riviera in 2001.

It didn't look like a playoff would be necessary after Russell Henley, who led after the first three rounds, recovered from a slow start to reach 17-under after a birdie on the 10th hole. But Henley bogeyed three of the next four and came to the 72nd hole needing par to stay at 15 under.

But Henley missed a 6-footer to go 0-for-3 this season with the 54-hole lead. He was

in front after three rounds at Las Vegas last October and at the U.S. Open in June.

"I knew I had to shoot under par today, so just disappointed," Henley after his 1-over 71. "It stings pretty bad."

There was drama through the final round of the tour's last regular-season event as players outside the postseason sought to get in.

It looked like former FedEx Cup champion Justin Rose, who started the week 138th, had done enough to make the 125-man field for The North-

ern Trust. But the Englishman missed a 5-footer for par on the final hole that dropped him to 126th — first outside the playoff field.

"Obviously it was in my hands up 18," Rose said. "I didn't do a very good job of that."

Rose's loss was Chesson Hadley's gain. The veteran who finished second at the Palmetto Championship at Congaree in June made a hole-in one on the par-3 16th—complete with an awkward, leg-kicking celebration—and shot 62.

That was enough to sneak him into next week's field at No. 125. And unlike Rose, Hadley needed to make the playoffs to secure full playing privileges for next season.

Sloan and Scott Piercy were two others who played their way into the playoffs. Canada's Sloan moved from 131st to 92nd while Piercy came in at No. 126 and improved 10 spots.

Three players who missed the cut this week fell from the top 125 after starting the week playoff-bound. Ryan Armour went from 122nd to 127th, Bo Hoag from 125th to 129th and Patrick Rodgers from 123rd to 128th.

Threatening weather for later Sunday led tour officials to move up tee times. They didn't count on a mash-up at the top leading to the 12th playoff on the PGA Tour this season.

Udonis Haslem signs for 19th season with Miami Heat

MIAMI (AP)—Udonis Haslem is officially back with the Miami Heat.

Haslem signed another contract—the 10th of his career—with the Heat on Sunday, assuring that he will return for a 19th season with Miami. It is a one-year deal worth about \$2.8 million.

The 41-year-old would become only the fifth player to spend an entire career spanning at least 19 years with one franchise. Dirk Nowitzki spent all 21 of his NBA seasons with Dallas, Kobe Bryant spent 20 with the Los Angeles Lakers, Tim Duncan spent 19 with San Antonio and John Stockton spent 19 with Utah.

Haslem has a unique role for the Heat. He barely plays, with just five appearances in the last two seasons—just one last season. But Heat coach Erik Spoelstra considers him essential for several reasons, including the example he sets in practice for other players and how much the Miami native values the role of being the captain of his hometown team.

"Udonis Haslem has agreed to come back and play the game he loves so much," Heat President Pat Riley said in a release announcing the signing. "What

NBA BRIEFS

Nuggets sign journeyman Jeff Green to 2-year, \$10M deal

DENVER (AP)—The Denver Nuggets added experience, versatility and another 3-point shooter by signing free agent forward Jeff Green to a two-year, \$10 million contract on Thursday.

The Nuggets are Green's 11th team in 14 NBA seasons.

Green shot a career-best 41.2% from 3-point range for the star-studded Brooklyn Nets last season when he averaged 11.0 points, 3.9 rebounds and 1.6 assists in 68 games, including 38 starts. He averaged 27 minutes a game.

In eight playoff games, Green averaged 8.2 points, 2.8 rebounds and 1.7 assists and shot 55.6% from 3-point range in 24.7 minutes.

he loves more than that is to be on the court teaching and competing against the world's best. UD is a legacy player ... ONE PLAYER, ONE CITY, ONE TEAM. Thank you, UD, for coming back to lead again in your city, your organization and your team."

Haslem was, by far, the old-

President of Basketball Operations Tim Connelly said Green "brings a wealth of experience to our team; his impact will be felt both on the court and in the locker room."

Green, who is 6-foot-8 and 235 pounds, has appeared in 967 career games (583 starts) for Oklahoma City, Boston, Memphis, Cleveland, Washington, Orlando, Utah, the Los Angeles Clippers, Houston and Brooklyn.

He holds career averages of 12.8 points, 4.4 rebounds and 1.6 assists, shooting 44.4% from the field and 34% from 3-point range.

Free-agent guard Reggie Jackson re-signs with LA Clippers

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Reggie Jackson is returning to the Los Angeles Clippers after helping the team reach

the Western Conference finals for the first time.

The team announced the re-signing of the free-agent point guard on Wednesday.

Jackson averaged 10.7 points, 3.1 assists and 2.9 rebounds last season while shooting a career-high 43% from 3-point range.

He elevated his game in the playoffs, averaging 17.8 points, 3.4 assists and 3.2 rebounds while Kawhi Leonard missed the team's final eight games with a partially torn ACL. Jackson shot 41% from 3-point range and a career-best 48% from the field. He ranked second in the league in total 3-pointers made with 58 during the playoffs, when he started 17 of 19 games.

"Reggie elevates our team with his energy, his confidence, and his ability to be at his best in the biggest moments," said Lawrence Frank, president of

basketball operations. "He was an important part of our team last season, and he will continue to be going forward."

The 31-year-old guard also has played for Oklahoma City and Detroit during his 10-year NBA career.

Other signings by the Clippers include free-agent forward Justise Winslow, and guards Brandon Boston Jr., Keon Johnson and Jason Preston.

Pistons re-sign Cory Joseph, Frank Jackson, Rodney McGruder

DETROIT (AP)—The Detroit Pistons have re-signed guards Cory Joseph, Frank Jackson and Rodney McGruder.

The team announced the deals Wednesday, adding depth on their young roster that features No. 1 overall pick Cade Cunningham.

Detroit acquired Joseph

after sending guard Delon Wright to Sacramento in March and he averaged 12 points in 19 games for them last season. Joseph has averaged seven points a game over 10 seasons with San Antonio, Indiana, Toronto, the Kings and Pistons.

Jackson averaged a career-high 9.8 points over 40 games with the Pistons. He has scored nearly eight points a game over three seasons with New Orleans and Detroit.

McGruder averaged 5.7 points in 16 games last season in Detroit. He has scored almost six points a game over five seasons with Miami, the Los Angeles Clippers and Pistons.

The Pistons need all the help they can get after winning just 20 games each of the past two seasons and failing to have a winning record for five straight years.

whistled for two technical fouls and got ejected against Philadelphia on May 13—all in a span of 2 minutes, 40 seconds.

"If this is the last one, I finished it the only way Udonis Haslem could—with an ejection," Haslem said that night.


Haslem is one of only two players—Dwyane Wade be-

That would leave only Nat Hickey, Kevin Willis, Robert Parish, Vince Carter, Dikembe Mutombo and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar ahead of Haslem on the NBA's oldest-player list.

Haslem's lone appearance last season was memorable. He scored four points, grabbed a rebound, drew a charge, was

ing the other—to appear on all three of Miami's NBA championship teams. Haslem is the only player to be with the Heat for all six of their Eastern Conference championship runs. He leads the franchise's all-time list in rebounds, is second in games and minutes played and seventh in scoring.

2021, 2022 United Airlines Guam Marathon cancelled

 Guam Sports Events, Inc. announced that the United Airlines Guam Marathon has been canceled for 2021 and 2022.

In a letter to participants, GSE managing director Ben Ferguson thanked local and international runners for their participation and continued support throughout the pandemic.

Ferguson also noted, “As with all tourism-related businesses and events, the global

pandemic has affected UGM tremendously. We are all facing economic uncertainty as tourism begins to rebuild. As a result, the GSE Board of Directors has decided to cancel the 2021 and 2022 events. Additionally, we will be suspending the event indefinitely until we can restart the event safely and successfully.”

UGM, Guam’s largest and premier international sports event for the past eight years, welcomed half of its 2019 participants from 19 different



United Airlines Guam Marathon has been canceled for 2021 and 2022. WWW.UNITEDGUAMMARATHON.COM

countries. More than 4,000 participants gathered in Tumon for race weekend. UGM went virtual in 2020 to offer

participants a safe week-long virtual race event complete with finisher’s medal, event T-shirt, beach mat, event

towel, and event bag.

Ferguson added, “Through-out the eight years, we have brought together a wonderful community of runners. UGM has also been a proven marketing tool for travel to Guam and has contributed millions of dollars each year to the local economy. We thank our title sponsor United Airlines, Gold Sponsors Guam Visitors Bureau and Pacific Islands Club, and all of the sponsors and volunteers for their valuable support in helping to

make that possible for Guam.”

For more information, contact Ben Ferguson, managing director, Guam Sports Events, Inc. at BFerguson@picguam.com and (671) 646-9171. (PR)

CLASSIC

From Page 20

ulipiy and crewmembers Herb Sablan and Ernesto Rangamar of Lorraine settled for second place and the \$2,000 runner-up purse and \$200 worth of gift certificates, while third place went to *Sex Sea* of skipper Abraham S. Quitugua and second-mate Patrick DeLeon Guerrero with their 120.4-lb catch that included a 4.8-lb skipjack and a 115.6-lb marlin. They won \$1,000 and a \$100 gift certificate for all their troubles.

Fourth and fifth place went

to *Y-Knot TTT* of captain Alex Castro and crewmen Derik Reyes Jr., Ricky George, Kha-ka Castro, and Dan Wollak and *J&MJ* of captain Manuel Mogar and deckhand Lawrence Pantola. Castro and company reeled in 104.6 lbs of fish (104-lb tuna, 0.7-lb skipjack) while Mogar and Pantola submitted fish totaling 89.3 lbs (7.6-lb skipjack and 81.7-lb marlin).

TTT president Gene Weaver said a total of 124 captains and crew in 35 boats took part in the Tuna Mix Classic 2021 fishing tournament.

“The turnout was great with everything going on this week-

end. You’ve got the HANMI golf tournament and you’ve got the Beef, Beer, and Bands [Festival] on Tinian. To have all these events and come out with 35 boats, I’m happy, I’m satisfied. I think we did a great job considering what’s going on this time...[It’s] the first time we did this. We expected 35 boats and we got 35 boats,” he said.

Bank of Saipan president and CEO John Z. Arroyo said his company is already looking forward to sponsoring the 2nd Annual Tuna Mix Classic.

“It was a great event. Everyone had fun and there was a lot of good fish caught today

and good prizes going out. I think this is great for the island and I wish we can continue to do these things. We’re going to this next year as well and we’re very really proud to do this especially the reasons behind it like the education of the young kids. Teaching them life skills like fishing and conservation and things like that. We’re happy to be here and we’re very proud to be part of this team,” he said.

Aside from Bank of Saipan, Pacific Trading Co. also came in as a main sponsor of the event. Other sponsors include 4EVER CNMI, Roil Soil

Clothing, IT&E, Herman’s Modern Bakery, GR Construction, Pacific Auto, Universal Rentals, and Fishing Tackle and Sporting Goods.

Tasi to Table also would like to extend its gratitude to the following government agencies for helping them hold the Inaugural Tuna Mix Classic fishing tournament—American Memorial Park, Division of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Department of Public Safety Boating Division, Smiling Cove Marina, Rep. Leila Staffler (D-Saipan), and the Marianas Visitors Authority.

SUPPORT

From Page 20

enjoyable time. Although we did things very different from in the past due to COVID-19, everyone seemed to be in great spirit. It was a very successful event.”

Cavanagh specially thanked 19th Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament organizing committee chair Glenn Policare for manning the helm this year that was made more difficult amidst the pandemic.

“We were fully booked for the tournament. I would like to thank this year’s committee lead by Mr. Glenn Policare. They are the ones that had to go out and ask for sponsorship knowing that things are not great. They did a wonderful set up and everything went very smoothly...We had almost a 100 sponsors this year. Amazing!”

Policare himself said he and his committee wouldn’t have pulled off the successful staging of the event without the

support of everyone.

“The support of the island was amazing. We had close to 144 golfers participate in our 19th annual tournament,” he said.

The longtime hotel executive said without the island community’s help in making the CNMI one of the safest places in the world when it comes to COVID-19, HANMI wouldn’t have been able to hold the tournament.

“In June of this year, the CNMI moved to Community Vulnerability Level: Green. The level of dedication of the island to keep all of us safe allowed us to hold our event while still maintaining current safety guidelines. There are many places in the world at the moment where a tournament like ours would not be possible. The CNMI has taken this pandemic very seriously which allowed us to see some serious golf this weekend!”

Cavanagh also reiterated that part of the proceeds from the HANMI golf tourney will

be donated to the islands’ hosting of the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games.

“We chose the NMI Pacific Mini Games organizing committee as our benefactor for a few reasons. This is going to be a huge event for the CNMI. It signifies a return to somewhat of normalcy. It gives the CNMI hope and identity to represent who we are as a people. It allows us to display our local hospitality and beautiful island spirit and talent. As announced at the banquet, the CNMI plans to do things a little different that all other countries and territories that have hosted before. Instead of using an athletes village, the committee wanted to showcase our destination as one that the participants will want to come back to and enjoy. They will be using our hotels to house the athletes, coaching staff, and dignitaries. It only made sense to the HANMI tournament committee and to the board that we would assist in raising funds to ensure

a successful event,” she said.

Policare seconded Cavanagh’s thoughts on why picking the Mini Games organizing committee as the beneficiary of the HANMI tourney was a no-brainer.

“A portion of the proceeds will be going to the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022. This will be one of, if not, the biggest event ever held on Saipan. As many of the 1,400 athletes from 19 countries will be staying in our partner hotels, the decision to assist the NMPMG 2022 was an easy one.”

Meanwhile, aside from J.J. Atalig topping the double Peoria tourney with a net 68 and Yuko Togawa and Younghee Yoo coming in second and third with net scores of 69.4 and 69.6, respectively, the HANMI tourney also awarded closest to the pin, longest drive, and most accurate drive winners during the awards banquet also held last Saturday at the COP clubhouse.

Closest to the pin were Zhi-

yun Li (12.5 inches) in hole No. 3, Steve Aguon (148.8 inches) in No. 12, Yoo Young (242 inches) in No. 11, Jeon Meae (7.8 inches) in No. 14, and Das Krishnan (155 ½ inches) in No. 7.

Ben Jones Jr. relived his all-star baseball days by winning the longest drive with a 262-yard swing in hole No. 11. The most accurate drive, meanwhile, was won by Juan L. Babauta when his ball landed a mere 4mm within the cup in hole No. 8.

All optional play winners except longest drive men’s and women’s won \$200 each, while the latter two got hotel night stay each.

In terms of prize money for the Top 3 places, Atalig, Togawa, and Yoo pocketed \$500 each, while fourth place (Ben Jones Jr.), fifth place (Peter Mendiola), and sixth place (Yang Kim) got \$300 each. Seventh to ninth place (Chris Groves, Franco Santos, and Ray Quintanilla) went home with \$200 each.

GECKO

From Page 20

registered as well as medals for the Top 3 people in each category and trophies for the first place teams in each of the school-level categories.”

He added that the new normal brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic guarantees that SIS had to tweak the way they organize the Gecko 5000 from previous years.

“For all school-aged athletes

ages 12+, PSS is requiring vaccination to participate. This is different than in previous years. Other than that, we are only having water and refreshments that are individual, i.e. no giant water jug. Only individual water bottles. This will make more waste but will help our athletes stay safe. Officials and spectators will wear masks during the event,” he said.

Good thing the Gecko 5000 is also a cross country event, which bodes well for follow-

ing the guidelines under the COVID-19 Task Force.

“Cross country is one of the events that requires the least amount of accommodation for the pandemic. We race outside, spread out over great distances. The only crowding is at the beginning and we have protocols in place to limit this,” said Snyder.

The 2021 Gecko 5000 Invitational will have four divisions—the 1-mile 12U for elementary students, the 2-mile

14U for middle school students, the 5-kilometer 18U for high school students, and the 5K run for all runners. The 12U division starts at 6:30am, the 14U at 6:40am, and the 18U and open division at 6:50am.

Runners should expect a course with very slight hills and asphalt, coral, and grass paths. Water station as well as refreshments will be available at the finish line in Banzai Cliff.

Aside from the Gecko 5000, Northern Marianas Athletics

will concurrently hold an open cross country run with a 5K distance for women and an 8K distance for men. It will serve as qualifier No. 1 for NMA’s open cross country series and also starts at 6:50am.

Check-in time is 6am at the Last Command Post and entry fee is free save for the \$15 open runners and open cross country runners need to fork out. For more information, contact Snyder at r.snyder@sissaipan.net.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

WYNDHAM CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

FINAL ROUND

x-Kevin Kisner (500), \$1,152,000	65-68-66-66-265
Branden Grace (167), \$389,440	66-69-64-68-265
Si Woo Kim (167), \$389,440	66-68-67-64-265
Kevin Na (167), \$389,440	68-64-67-68-265
Adam Scott (167), \$389,440	66-70-64-65-265
Roger Sloan (167), \$389,440	71-64-64-66-265
Webb Simpson (85), \$201,067	65-65-70-66-266
Kevin Streelman (85), \$201,067	66-66-68-66-266
Russell Henley (85), \$201,067	62-64-69-71-266
Adam Hadwin (65), \$148,800	64-71-66-66-267
Justin Rose (65), \$148,800	66-65-69-67-267
Rory Sabbatini (65), \$148,800	66-64-69-69-267
Nick Taylor (65), \$148,800	65-71-67-64-267
Brendon Todd (65), \$148,800	66-67-65-66-267
Sepp Straka (47), \$91,342	66-71-67-64-268
Brian Stuard (47), \$91,342	65-66-72-65-268
Chesson Hadley (47), \$91,342	66-69-69-62-268
Harry Higgs (47), \$91,342	70-67-65-66-268
Sung Kang (47), \$91,342	64-69-68-67-268
Denny McCarthy (47), \$91,342	65-69-69-65-268
Tyler McCumber (47), \$91,342	66-67-66-70-268
Scott Piercy (47), \$91,342	64-66-69-69-268
Jhonattan Vegas (47), \$91,342	66-68-72-63-268
Jason Dufner (34), \$53,440	71-65-70-63-269
Sungjae Im (34), \$53,440	66-68-67-68-269
Russell Knox (34), \$53,440	74-63-66-64-269
K.H. Lee (34), \$53,440	67-68-67-67-269
Ben Taylor (34), \$53,440	68-68-65-68-269
Matt Kuchar (26), \$41,013	66-67-71-66-270
Alex Smalley, \$41,013	68-64-72-66-270
Chris Kirk (26), \$41,013	64-69-69-68-270
Sebastian Muñoz (26), \$41,013	66-67-68-69-270
C.T. Pan (26), \$41,013	66-69-66-67-270
Will Zalatoris, \$41,013	66-68-65-69-270
Byeong Hun An (21), \$34,080	69-68-68-68-271
Sam Ryder (21), \$34,080	66-65-72-66-271
Kiradech Aphibarnrat (15), \$26,560	66-68-71-57-272
John Augenstein, \$26,560	68-65-69-70-272
Austin Eckroat, \$26,560	68-69-70-65-272
Mackenzie Hughes (15), \$26,560	70-63-70-69-272
David Lingmerth (15), \$26,560	66-67-71-67-272
Cameron Percy (15), \$26,560	67-67-68-70-272
Hudson Swafford (15), \$26,560	64-69-67-72-272
Erik van Rooyen (15), \$26,560	65-69-73-65-272
Richy Werenski (15), \$26,560	67-70-70-65-272
Anirban Lahiri (10), \$18,061	67-69-67-70-273
Kevin Tway (10), \$18,061	66-71-68-68-273
Camilo Villegas (10), \$18,061	68-67-71-67-273
Bubba Watson (10), \$18,061	67-69-70-67-273
Aaron Wise (10), \$18,061	66-70-67-70-273
Brice Garnett (7), \$15,584	69-68-68-69-274
Brian Gay (7), \$15,584	70-66-69-69-274
Mark Hubbard (7), \$15,584	67-70-68-69-274
Andrew Landry (7), \$15,584	65-72-72-65-274
Keith Mitchell (6), \$14,976	67-68-71-69-275
Johnson Wagner (6), \$14,976	68-68-68-70-275
Mark Anderson (5), \$14,656	66-71-70-69-276
Tyler Duncan (5), \$14,656	69-62-69-76-276
Harold Varner III (5), \$14,656	67-67-71-71-276
Bronson Burgoon (5), \$14,336	65-68-74-70-277
Seamus Power (5), \$14,336	67-70-72-68-277
James Hahn (4), \$14,016	68-67-72-71-278
Nelson Ledesma (4), \$14,016	69-67-74-68-278
Rob Oppenheim (4), \$14,016	66-71-69-72-278
Tommy Fleetwood (4), \$13,504	66-68-72-73-279
Michael Gligic (4), \$13,504	65-71-73-70-279
Beau Hossler (4), \$13,504	66-69-68-74-279
Michael Kim (4), \$13,504	67-69-72-71-279
Robert MacIntyre, \$13,504	69-68-71-71-279
Chris Baker (3), \$12,992	67-70-74-69-280
Matt Jones (3), \$12,992	66-68-69-74-280
Ben Martin (3), \$12,992	67-67-76-70-280
Nate Lashley (3), \$12,736	68-68-75-73-284
Rafael Campos (3), \$12,608	66-70-71-72-285

x-non playoff on second extra hole

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	71	47	.602	—
Boston	69	51	.575	3
New York	65	52	.556	5½
Toronto	63	54	.538	7½
Baltimore	38	78	.328	32

Central Division

Chicago	68	50	.576	
Cleveland	57	59	.491	10
Detroit	58	62	.483	11
Minnesota	52	66	.441	16
Kansas City	49	67	.422	18

West Division

Houston	70	47	.598	
Oakland	68	50	.576	2½
Seattle	63	56	.529	8
Los Angeles	59	60	.496	12
Texas	42	76	.356	28½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	62	56	.525	
Philadelphia	61	57	.517	1
New York	59	58	.504	2½
Miami	51	67	.432	11
Washington	50	68	.424	12

Central Division

Milwaukee	72	47	.605	
Cincinnati	64	55	.538	8
St. Louis	61	56	.521	10
Chicago	52	68	.433	20½
Pittsburgh	42	76	.356	29½

West Division

San Francisco	76	42	.644	
Los Angeles	72	46	.610	4
San Diego	67	53	.558	10
Colorado	52	66	.441	24
Arizona	38	81	.319	38½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Tatis homers twice in return; Padres beat Diamondbacks, 8-2

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2021, 2022 United Airlines Guam Marathon cancelled

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE



Santa Soledad deckhand Tak Nakazato holds the giant \$3,000 check and 1st place trophy after topping Tasi to Table Inc.'s Inaugural Tuna Mix Classic 2021 fishing tournament. They are joined in the photo by Tasi to Table president Gene Weaver and vice president Wayne Pangelinan and Bank of Saipan president and CEO John Z. Arroyo, among others.

MARK RABAGO

Santa Soledad rules Tuna Mix Classic

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The crew of *Santa Soledad* had a windfall larger than most stimulus cards after winning Tasi to Table Inc.'s Inaugural Tuna Mix Classic 2021 fishing tournament held last Saturday in the waters off the Northern Marianas.

Santa Soledad won the first-ever Tuna Mix Classic after landing a 42.6-lb yellowfin tuna and a 101.6-lb marlin for a combined total weight of 144.2 lbs. It narrowly beat *Lorraine* which brought in 144.1 lbs of fish—a 143-lb marlin and a 1.1-lb skipjack.

Aside from getting the \$3,000 prizemoney and \$300 worth of gift certificates for topping the competition, captain Mark Reyes and crew-member Tak Nakazato also won the side bet worth \$1,000 for reeling in the heaviest tuna for a cool \$4,000—not a bad day for less than 14 hours out in the water.

"It's a regular tourna-



Santa Soledad captain Mark Reyes shows off the 42.6-lb yellowfin tuna he and deckhand Tak Nakazato reeled in during Tasi to Table Inc.'s Inaugural Tuna Mix Classic 2021 fishing tournament held last Saturday in the waters off the Northern Marianas.

MARK RABAGO

ment so I guess the luck was there.... We caught it west of Marpi Reef... We were using an electric reel so it only took a couple of minutes like three minutes and it came by the boat and we picked it up," said Nakazato after the awards ceremony at the Smiling Cove weighing station.

The more than 30-year fishing veteran said the 42.6-lb yellowfin was so heavy that at first he and Reyes thought it was a much bigger type of fish.

"I thought it was a marlin because it was so big. My partner was the one pulling the line up and I said 'it's a yellowfin it's not a marlin.'"

When asked what he and Reyes plan to do with the money they won, the 55-year-old Nakazato had a ready reply. "Give to my friends and family...Of course it's better than the stimulus money for one day's work...we dedicate [this win] to our fellow fishermen...We're all the same trying to grab the prize."

Captain Cecilio Raiuki-
See CLASSIC on Page 19

'Support of the island was amazing'

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands would like to thank everyone—sponsors, the organizing committee, the players, and volunteers—for the successful holding of the 19th Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament last Saturday at the Coral Ocean Resort.

HANMI president Gloria Cavanagh said after they

were forced to cancel the annual golf fundraiser last year, the HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament came back with a bang this year.

"As we were not able to have our tournament last year, this one was very special. What made it extremely special were the many sponsors that stepped forward during these hard times. Additionally, the players and the volunteers that made the event a very

See SUPPORT on Page 19



Juan L. Babauta won the most accurate drive after his golf ball landed a mere 4mm within the cup in hole No. 8. of the 19th Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament last Saturday at the Coral Ocean Resort. Joining Babauta in the photo is Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands president Gloria Cavanagh.

MARK RABAGO

Gecko 5000 set for Sept. 11

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR



After an absence of one year, Saipan International School's Gecko 5000 Invitational is back and will be held on Sept. 11 in Marpi.

SIS headmaster Ron Snyder said the 2021 edition of the Gecko 5000 will start bright and early 6am at the Last

Command Post with the finish line at Banzai Cliff.

Snyder said it's called Gecko 5000 after the school's mascot and the distance of the race which is 5,000m.

"We had to cancel it last year, with great disappointment. It is totally cool to have it back, bigger than ever this year. We expect several hundred participants. We have shirts for the first 300 people
See GECKO on Page 19



Gecko 5000, named after Saipan International School's mascot and the distance of the race which is 5,000m, will be held on Sept. 11 in Marpi.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO